

WALSALL CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 17, 2013

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Community news –
Focus on Bloxwich

See page 20



Silly sausage

Harry Hill talks about
his sizzling new show

What's On – page 30



Battle ready

Gethin gets ready
for British title fight

Sport – pages 59 & 60



New phase of work to make busy road safer

WORK has started on the latest phase of improvements on a busy route through Walsall as part of a £120,000 safety package.

Roadworks are in place on Broadway and are expected to last for six to eight weeks, depending on the weather. It follows work last year which saw markings and pedestrian crossing points near Lincoln Road improved.

There has been a series of accidents along the main road, particularly at its junction with Sutton Road.

Roads chief Tom Ansell said the second phase of work would help allay safety fears.

"This second phase of work should be completed by spring and follows our discussions with residents and businesses in the Broadway area that raised concerns about road safety," he said.

"It is a busy route and the improvements have been designed to help pedestrians, residents, shoppers and drivers alike. We consulted with residents and businesses and gained support from the majority to press ahead with this £120,000 scheme."

Power cut hits homes

A TOTAL of 16,000 homes were left in darkness after a power cut on the coldest night of the year so far.

Homes in Willenhall, Bentley, Darlaston and Bilston were affected from 5.20pm on Monday due to a problem at a sub-station and faults on two underground cables. Street and traffic lights were also affected as temperatures in the area plummeted below zero.

Midnight

Western Power said electricity was restored to most homes after three minutes, with the majority of the remaining 1,200 switched back on by midnight.

Spokeswoman Stella Hayward said: "Our engineers worked as quickly as possible throughout the night to resolve the issue."

Woman beat her lover to death with ornament



Tracy Ashfield

A WOMAN who beat her lesbian lover to death with a concrete garden ornament in a frenzied attack at their Walsall home was this week beginning a life sentence after admitting murder.

Tracy Ashfield used an ornamental swan to strike 42-year-old Wendy Thorpe at least 10 times to the head and upper body at the home they shared in Hunter Crescent.

It followed an argument over money, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard on Monday

Dragged

The 43-year-old, who must serve a minimum of 13 years, dragged her partner's body to the garden in Harden and covered it with pieces of wood and carrier bags.

She rang police the day after and confessed to committing a "terrible crime".

Police later searched the couple's home and found a written confession in which Ashfield asked for forgiveness and said: "We had a fight and I saw red."

The head and neck of the swan ornament, which broke off during the attack on July 14, were found floating in the nearby canal.



Wendy Thorpe

Planners reject bid to create an auction

AMBITIOUS plans to transform a disused lock factory in Willenhall into an indoor market and auction rooms have been rejected.

Market & Auctions Co wanted to create 10 jobs by opening up a sales and stalls area in the empty unit at Alvar Business Park in Willenhall. But it has been turned down by Walsall Council planners amid concerns it was not in a suitable location.

An auction room for the sale of bulk items was part of the plans for the site off Straight Road.

Disappointed

Willenhall South councillor Sean Coughlan said it would have provided a welcome boost for the area. "I am disappointed, jobs are really, really important," he said.

The decision was made by planning officers under delegated powers.

Head of planning David Elsworth said the proposals had the potential to detract investment away from Willenhall district centre and there was also concern over parking.

Pub-casino plan doubt

A MULTI-MILLION pound leisure development earmarked for Walsall town centre may be scrapped, developers say.

The 10-storey complex has been in the pipeline for more than 18 months but is dependent on securing Walsall Council land currently used as a car park.

Developer Pete Kholsa said the scheme, which could create 200 jobs, may not be able to go ahead unless they can buy the land.

The plan for the corner of Stafford Street and Green Lane includes shops, a pub and cafe on the ground floor, a gym on the next and a casino above, plus offices or apartments.

Regeneration boss Councillor Adrian Andrew said the council were willing to talk to the developer.

COUNCILLOR SAYS NO TO £5,000 RISE

A CONTROVERSIAL increase in allowances for senior councillors in Walsall is to be snubbed by a member of the council's decision-making Cabinet.

Willenhall North's Councillor Ian Shires said he would not take the extra £5,123 being made available following full council approval. The Liberal Democrat group leader, who is portfolio holder for community engagement as part of the coalition-run authority, has criticised the agreed £55,000 total allowance for cabinet members recommended by an independent panel.

The increase was agreed despite a demonstration by up to 50 pensioners outside the Walsall Council House last Monday.

Councillor Shires said: "We voted against the increase. We were looking at maintaining the status quo."

"We are asking people to tighten their belts so it is totally and utterly wrong for increases such as these."

"For politicians to say that they deserve a rise of that nature, it is no wonder people feel the way that they do."

"It was an absolute no-no to accept that type of increase."

Against

The changes due to come into force in April were voted through by the Conservatives. The five Liberal Democrats, two independents and one Democratic Labour Party member all voted against the move, while Labour did not vote.

Under the changes, the leader of the

Report by Craig Hughes

council is to see his annual allowance go from £22,356 to £26,850 and the deputy leader from £8,302 to £17,534. Cabinet members will receive £13,425, up from £8,302.

Money to fund the increase is to come from an underspend in the allowances budget for the past year.

A report to the council said that the authority had previously chosen not to take on the larger allowance that was proposed in the last two years because of the financial situation.

There was also an underspend in the allowances budget of £50,000 in 2011-12 and it is expected to be £30,000 by the end of the current financial year.

Call for action over mysterious stink

A MYSTERIOUS smell is causing a stink in Walsall town centre again – more than a decade after it was first sniffed.

The odour around Leicester Street is a cause of concern with traders fearing it may even be putting people off visiting shops.

Councillor Doug James has even complained people need to arm themselves with a gas mask or nose peg when venturing into the vicinity and has called for action.

He branded the pong an "obnoxious and unhealthy" stink.

Walsall Council said it had

carried out extensive tests of drains in the area but had not been able to locate the problem.

"What a vile and unpleasant experience it is for everyone and this disgusting stink has been doing its worst for years," added Darlaston's Cllr James.

Vintage glamour girls in final

BY day they are receptionists, shop assistants and dance teachers. But by night and at weekends, this group of picture-perfect girls are making a name for themselves as a 1940s cabaret act.

Formed two years ago, The Pin Ups have been travelling the country wowing crowds with their vocal harmonies and vintage "cheese-cake burlesque" act.

They have now won a place in the grand final of a national competition. The girls will be taking part in the Open Mic competition at the O2 in London on Saturday.

The Pin Ups has an official line up of eight: Singer Kelly Ashford, of Aldridge; Francesca Charlton, 22, of Walsall; Carrie -Anne McNally, 27, of Kitts Green; Amy Rose Downes, 21, of Wednesbury and Lauren Parker, 22, of Shelfield. To support the girls in the Open Mic competition, people can text OPEN88 to 86222.



The Pin Ups, Carrie-Anne McNally, Kelly Ashford, Francesca Charlton, Laura Fleming and Kate Stallard

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CONTACT US

Got a story to tell or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Walsall:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Catherine Dalton: 01922 444313
catherine.dalton@expressandstar.co.uk
Craig Hughes: 01922 444316
craig.hughes@expressandstar.co.uk
Lisa O'Brien: 01922 444312
lisa.obrien@expressandstar.co.uk
Marion Brennan: 01543 465302
marion.brennan@expressandstar.co.uk

Email your pictures to:
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic: John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431
Email: j.sambrooks@expressandstar.co.uk

Advertising: Samantha Broad
Tel: 01543 465331
E-mail: s.broad@expressandstar.co.uk

Property: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01543 465337
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring: Jayne La'Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465334
E-mail: j.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

WALSALL thechronicle

Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

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Homes plan for Park Hall rejected again

CAMPAIGNERS objecting to a controversial housing development in an upmarket area of Walsall are rejecting after the proposals were thrown out – for a seventh time.

Plans for 14 apartments in Woodside Close, Park Hall, were turned down yet again by councillors at last Thursday's planning meeting, despite being recommended for approval by officers. Previous applications had been thrown out by Walsall Council and an independent Government inspector on half-a-dozen occasions, during the course of the last few years.

The new plans saw the repositioning of a substation which would be disguised as a residential garage. But councillors voted not to even determine the application, claiming it was too similar to past proposals and did not address concerns raised at previous meetings.

Petition

A fresh petition of 258 signatures was submitted while opposition also came from the Cottage Farm Residents' Association, Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz and Paddock Councillor Rose Martin.

Residents said it was an over-development of the site and feared it would create more parking problems in an already congested road.

Speaking at the meeting, Woodside Road resident Marilyn Kowalski said it was a mockery to design the substation as a garage as there would be no driveway leading up to it. People in the public gallery clapped as she said: "Residents are more against this than ever."

Councillor Barbara McCracken also spoke against the proposals and called them a clear attempt to wear down community opposition.

Councillor Zahid Ali said he had never come across an application in the past which had generated as many tears and frustration.

But landowner David Stone has since said that £100,000 has been spent on seeking permission for the development and another £10,000 could be spent on fighting the latest refusal.

Mr Stone, aged 57, of Orchard Hills, said he felt councillors disregarded advice given by planning officers who recommended approval and he was in the process of taking the matter to the High Court.

£10,000 haul of fakes seized in market swoop

A £10,000 haul of counterfeit goods was seized at Walsall's Bescot Market in a police swoop. The raid was part of Operation Canticle, which aimed to reduce crime in Walsall over the busy festive and New Year period.

West Midlands Police said it led to a 12.5 per cent drop in theft across in the town and a five per cent cut in shoplifting. Public order offences fell by a quarter in the borough compared to the same time last year. Warrants were executed at a town centre address and multiple class A drugs and stolen

goods were seized. A 32-year-old man was arrested for possession of class A drugs and handling stolen goods.

Over the Christmas and New Year period, police employed tactics to try and keep shoppers and revellers in Walsall town centre safe.

Officers were at Walsall bus station to meet and greet people and manned a market stall, handing out purse bells.

Traders

Sergeant Greg Evans said: "We are extremely pleased with the results of the operation."

"We hope our activity reassures shoppers and legitimate traders that we are trying to protect them by disrupting and arresting people who trade illegally."

"We wanted to make Walsall town centre a safe place for people to shop and socialise and these results show that the operation has achieved that aim."

Officers from West Midlands Police and Trading Standards swooped on Bescot Market on the Sunday before Christmas in the latest raid on the popular Sunday market, which has been running for 21 years.

In January last year, more than 200 counterfeit DVDs were seized in a raid on the site.

Club runs out of options in the borough

AN HISTORIC Black Country running club, with a history going back more than 90 years, is moving out of Walsall borough.

West Bromwich Harriers will now be based at the Q3 Academy in Great Barr, following the closure of its HQ at Aston University Recreation Centre in Walsall.

The club has had athletes compete in local and national competitions since 1920, when runners would meet up at the Old All Saints Church in West Bromwich.

Rugby

They spent 25 years based at the Gayton Road community centre, West Bromwich, before moving to Walsall.

But since the announcement Warley Rugby Club was taking over the Birmingham Road centre last year, the group has been hunting for a new venue.

The base on Wilderness Lane has also given the 75-strong club the chance to set up a new beginners running group.

Anyone who would like to join can email whbarriers@btinternet.com

Warm-hearted citizen Jess



Jess Watts from Bloxwich with parents Carol and Keith

WALSALL'S teenage ambassador has joined forces with her mother to help raise money for the British Heart Foundation and other heart charities.

Walsall's Young Citizen of the Year Jess Watts has helped set up Carol's Charity Heart after her 53-year-old father Keith suffered two heart attacks.

Beauty

Alongside mother Carol, 51, the 17-year-old from Bloxwich is organising a series of events.

A Rock Up in Red Ladies Night is being held at the County Hotel in Birmingham Road on Friday, February 1, with beauty treatments and pamper treats among the attractions.

Then a beauty pageant will be held at the hotel on February 24.

Call (01922) 497458 or 07707 534476 for details.

Murder probe officers investigated

FOURTEEN serving and former police officers are under investigation for their part in a botched murder probe.

Five men, including one from Willenhall, were jailed for the gangland killing of drug dealer Kevin Nunes, 20, who was shot in Pittingham, near Wolverhampton, in 2002.

Blunders

But their convictions were overturned by the Court of Appeal last year after the release of a report detailing blunders by Staffordshire Police.

Nine serving and five retired Staffordshire officers have been served with notices that their conduct during the murder probe

is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Those under investigation include: Staffordshire Assistant Chief Constable Jane Sawyers; Marcus Beale, Assistant Chief Constable at West Midlands Police; Northamptonshire Chief Constable Adrian Lee and his deputy Suzette Davenport – who was last week named as the new Chief Constable of Gloucestershire Police, starting in February. The IPCC probe centres on how Simeon Taylor, who claimed to have seen the killing, was dealt with, as well as "disclosure issues" prior to the trial in 2008.

Among the men jailed then cleared over the killing was Adam Joof, of Derwent Close, Willenhall.

Texting motorist gets two year ban

A 21-YEAR-OLD motorist tried to flee from police after they spotted him texting while driving. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Todd Hayward sped off when ordered to stop in Heath Road, Darlaston, on October 19.

Miss Claire Harris, prosecuting, said: "He was sending a text message with his right hand while steering with the left."

The pursuing police lost sight of Hayward as he veered towards oncoming traffic, forcing other motorists to swerve out of the way on Fleck Road and Bescot Road.

Details of the Corsa he was driving were circulated to other patrols and he was stopped in Wednesbury.

Hayward of Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, who had previous convictions, admitted dangerous driving and failing to stop.

He was given a 40 week jail sentence suspended under supervision for 18 months, banned from driving for two years and given a three month night time curfew.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said: "He appreciates the gravity of the wrong he did that day and is unlikely to appear in a court again."

Recorder Michael Stephens told Hayward: "You are lucky to be alive."

"Plenty of people have ended up in a fatal collision as a result of texting while driving."

Green light for housing on dairy site

MOVES to transform a former dairy site near Walsall town centre into a housing estate can go ahead after planners backed it.

An outline planning application for 36 homes off Midland Road was passed by councillors. A previous scheme for more than 100 homes was agreed seven years ago but failed to get off the ground. This led to a downsized proposal including a mix of two, three and four-bedroom properties.

Details of the proposal have now been agreed by officers under delegated powers despite some concerns from some residents.

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Green bins crackdown to continue

A TOUGH crackdown on people putting the wrong items of rubbish into their bins is to continue in Walsall – despite Government plans to soften penalties.

The Government is looking at ending fines for people disposing of waste in the wrong bins or putting them out for collection on the wrong day. Currently some councils fine residents up to £110 if the wrong rubbish is found in bins.

Walsall Council doesn't take that approach but does have a controversial policy that has seen binmen ordered not to take away green recycling bins containing the wrong items, such as black bags and nappies.

Council leader Mike Bird said that Walsall's tough policy would continue.

Costs

The authority says that sorting out every ton of recyclables contaminated with non-recyclables costs the borough approximately £100.

Cllr Bird said: "We will continue to get people to recycle goods. There are some councils that are fining people for not doing the correct things with their bins, we have never gone down that route."

More than 11,000 bins were uncollected in Walsall during the first two weeks of the controversial recycling crackdown. It saw inspectors – branded "binspectors" – checking in green bins. The council says it is proving a success, despite complaints from some residents.

Homes plan for estate's old Eagle pub

A PUB on a Walsall estate which has been a long-running cause of complaints could be turned into apartments. The plan is for The Eagle in Mossley, Bloxwich, which has been empty since 2007.

Recently Walsall North MP David Winnick has called for action by the council over the site.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said the council was taking action.

"At the request of Councillor Louise Harrison, I have met with the owner of the Eagle pub with planning officers to assist him to deliver his planning permission for the development of apartments," he said.

Chance to speak out on important issues

HERE'S your chance to speak out about the important issues that affect your life – from bins and buses to policing and pensions.

All this week the Express & Star is asking readers to take part in the Your Say survey, the biggest ever independent snapshot of life in the West Midlands and Staffordshire. And it is not too late to take part.

All 50 questions will be reprinted in Saturday's Express & Star – and you can also take part at a click of a button by logging onto www.expressandstar.com/survey

The Express & Star is asking you for your views on everything from how cuts have



affected services in your area to where you choose to do your shopping or enjoy a pint down the pub.

It wants to hear from as many readers as possible so that it can paint an accurate picture of you, your views and your concerns as we enter 2013. The consultation will build on the success of last year's pioneering

Express & Star Black Country Census, which gave a valuable insight into the identity of the region, past and present, and attracted around 2,000 responses.

Split into five sections, the Your Say survey concentrates on Your Services, Your Towns, Your Transport, Your Safety and Your Well-Being.

Express & Star editor Adrian Faber said: "We are hoping to create a valuable snapshot of life in this region as we enter 2013. We hope the findings of the survey will provide an insight into the priorities and concerns of our readers, something that service providers like councils and the police will take notice of."

"An essential role of the Express & Star is to give readers a voice and we want that voice to be as powerful as possible."

The Your Say survey has been welcomed by those who help to make the decisions that affect our region.

Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, said: "This is a brilliant initiative for the Express & Star and I have no doubt that councillors, MPs and the people running public services will be watching the results very carefully."

"This is exactly the sort of thing a community newspaper should be doing – listening to local people and highlighting their opinions on the things they care about."

Town gallery misses out on Turner Prize

THE New Art Gallery Walsall has missed out in its bid to host the Turner Prize in 2015. The Tramway in Glasgow has instead been chosen to host the prestigious contemporary arts prize event in two years' time.

Parking fees are slashed in effort to boost trade

NEW reduced parking charges have come into force in Walsall town centre in a bid to attract more shoppers. Fees have been slashed by up to 40 per cent with all-day parking falling from £5 to £3. Some on-street charges have also been scrapped for the first two hours.

The trial covers 11 long-stay car parks run by Walsall Council and six streets in an attempt to boost business for shops around the town. It council aims to compete with private operators.

The reduced fees following calls from traders.

Transport councillor Tom Ansell said: "This will be welcomed by a great many people and this shows that we have been listening."

"This isn't tinkering around the edges, this is a cut of 40 per cent to long-stay car parking, which isn't to be trifled with."

"We think at a time when times are tough this could be a major boost to shoppers and to shopkeepers in Walsall."

Bosses at the Walsall gallery said they were "disappointed" to be told they had narrowly missed out. But they were praised for their bid and have been offered the chance to work closely with the prestigious Tate Gallery in London.

Walsall leisure boss Councillor Anthony Harris said: "We're naturally disappointed but I think we can be richly proud of ourselves. To narrowly miss out to a national bid from Scotland is no disgrace and I think all those who worked on the bid can be proud."

Impact

Figures drawn up by chiefs in Walsall had shown around £471,000 would have had to be budgeted for 2015 if the bid was successful.

He said bidding for the scheme had not cost the council extra money but could have had a huge impact on the local economy had it been successful.

"We calculated that winning could bring between £2 million and £5m into Walsall with all the visitors and extra attention this would bring," he said.

Stephen Snoddy, gallery director, said: "I know we impressed Tate UK and further showed that New Art Gallery Walsall is a real national player, as our current Damien Hirst exhibition shows."

Mayor leads tributes to heroine



Mayor and mayoress Dennis and Kath Anson at the Sister Dora wreath-laying

NURSING heroine Sister Dora was remembered for her efforts in caring for the people of Walsall during an annual service in her adopted town.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St Paul's Church before the congregation walked to a statue in her honour at The Bridge.

Born in Yorkshire in 1832, the daughter of a clergyman, Sister Dora arrived in Walsall in 1865 and spent the next 13 years, until her death, caring for the sick in the town.

Epidemic

In 1875, when Walsall was hit by a smallpox epidemic, she tended to thousands of patients. She was also much valued by railway workers, as workers on the railways were often victims of industrial accidents in Victorian times.

She died from cancer on Christmas Eve 1878 and the whole town turned out for her funeral.

Floral tributes were laid at this week's ceremony, which is held every year on the Sunday before her birthday.

Walsall Mayor, councillor Dennis Anson, said: "Sister Dora really was Walsall's very own Florence Nightingale. She was also an inspirational woman whose legacy for putting the needs of others first remains in Walsall today."

NEWS in brief

Ring and ride set to move bus depot

A RING and Ride depot in Bloxwich is to close next month with 50 staff transferred to Moxley.

Three supervisor jobs are at risk as bosses are braced for a cut in funding. Users were assured they will see no change in service levels.

The depot at Croxstalls Road will be sold.

Peter Maggs, chief executive of West Midlands Special Needs Transport said: "We own the site in Bloxwich and there is space available at Moxley."

"As an efficiency move, we can move operations to Moxley, which we lease, and then put the site at Bloxwich up for sale."

New bridge would begin road project

A REPLACEMENT railway bridge to cope with extra traffic is expected to be first piece of work in a £26 million road improvement scheme in Darlaston.

The old bridge in Bentley Road South has been earmarked as one of the key initial projects in the multi-million pound initiative.

Work is anticipated to begin by the late summer or early autumn this year, subject to any formal opposition.

Ramblers in a 10 mile Staffs walk

WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Bratch Locks, near Wombourne, for a 10 mile circular walk on Sunday.

This is a varied walk in south Staffordshire, climbing to the Clive Ridge and returning through villages. Contact the walk leader on (01922) 692929.

Overnight closure

STAFFORD Street in Walsall town centre will be closed for resurfacing, between Littleton Street West and the Townend roundabout, overnight from 8pm today (Thursday) to 6am on Friday.

Inn's extension bid

AN EXTENSION could be built on a pub in Willenhall to house new toilets and kitchen facilities, under plans submitted to Walsall Council. The plans are for The Acorn Inn.

More time to build

DEVELOPERS have been granted extra time to build 90 homes in Walsall. Council chiefs agreed to extend planning permission for properties in Beddows Road and Rutland Street.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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"FASTER, higher, stronger" is the motto of the Olympic Games. It may need rewriting following a new debate about making darts an Olympic sport by 2020. Sir Clive Woodward, Team GB's director of sport, tweeted a few days ago: "Darts definitely an Olympic sport" So that's faster, higher, stronger - and fatter.

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TERMS to watch out for in 2013. "Cyber hygiene" is the responsible use of computers by individuals, companies, state departments and the military to prevent us from being overwhelmed by enemy powers.

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IN TIME, age catches up with even the coolest vocal chords. According to one gushing guru, the first David Bowie single for a decade, *Where Are We Now?* has "echoes of classic Bowie". It also has echoes of Clive Dunn warbling his way through *Granada*.

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NAMED and shamed in a survey for its terrible customer relations, one high-street bank puts up a spokeswoman who trills blithely: "Improving the service we provide our customers remains our top priority." This is bunkum rolled in claptrap and served with a massive side order of whoppers, and the sheer brass-necked gall is breathtaking. As we all know full well, the top priority of any bank, to the exclusion of almost anything else, is making money. In pursuit of that aim, customers will be deceived in their millions and staff will be sacked in their thousands. I am reminded of the cartoon about a company which once boasted: "Our members of staff are our most precious asset" but then conducted an audit and repositioned the staff just below the paperclips.

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OUR changing language. David Cameron declares that the Coalition has "a full tank of gas". This is England, not New England. We don't run cars on gas. Whatever happened to petrol?

□□□□□□□□

I REFERRED recently to us "sad old souls" who enjoy spotting the errors in period dramas. A soul-mate writes to tell me his finest hour came in *Heartbeat*, set at the time of the Torrey Canyon oil-spill disaster. The oil tanker ran aground in March 1967 but a car tax disc in the same episode was dated December 1969. Double Ovals all round.

□□□□□□□□

WE are told that Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans, is front-runner to become Britain's first gay bishop. He fits the latest criteria announced by the Church because he is in a civil partnership with another priest but insists the relationship is celibate. If this is the truth (and who can doubt the word of a man of God?) then Jeffrey John and his partner are not gay in any meaningful sense. They are merely long-term friends living together. And if they are allowed the tax breaks and inheritance rights that go with civil partnership, then why are other long-term friends who live together denied the right to have civil partnerships?

□□□□□□□□

"THANKS to the internet it is now possible to be extremely well informed and completely wrong at the same time." Emailer's comment to a motoring DIY website.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Winter bugs pressure on Manor

EMERGENCY admissions at Walsall Manor Hospital have rocketed by 14 per cent, with A&E starting this year at its busiest for more than five years.

Scores of extra people have attended the department during the first weeks of January, many with symptoms of flu or the winter vomiting bug, which has been stretching hospital resources.

It has prompted hospital bosses to encourage patients to only visit the Manor if necessary and instead use the likes of the Walsall Walk-In Health Centre.

Patient numbers to the A&E department rose from 1,788 at the week ending December 30 to 1,839 in the seven days up to January 6.

The number of emergency admissions also

increased from 502 to 573 in the same period, figures released by the hospital show.

There has been a surge in residents suffering flu-type symptoms along with diarrhoea and vomiting over the last few weeks.

The first weekend of January saw A&E at its busiest in at least the last five years.

Warning

Due to the growing numbers of patients, health bosses are warning there could be long delays to be seen by medics.

They are encouraging those with non-life threatening conditions to explore other areas of treatment such as the town's walk-in centre which opens between 8am and 8pm.

Pharmacists and NHS Direct are also available

to help people deal with less serious symptoms.

Sue Hartley, director of nursing at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "We have seen extreme pressure on our services. It has been hugely challenging and very, very busy."

"We are not saying people can't come to A&E. If someone feels their life is being compromised absolutely that is their choice to come. But there are other options that were not available before."

"A&E is really for people who have significant issues that are compromising their health, like a heart attack, traumatic injury or respiratory problems."

Extra staff and beds have been made available to cope with the surge in demand. It also comes as the region has been battling the winter sickness bug norovirus.

Clubland
midnight
levy idea
rejected

PROPOSALS to place a levy on pubs and clubs in Walsall which open after midnight have been rejected.

The difficult economic climate was cited as a reason for rejecting the proposed charge. The move could have brought in extra money for policing under new Government legislation.

But Walsall Council unanimously agreed last week not to introduce the powers with many councillors saying it could cause businesses to struggle at an already-difficult time.

Concerns

Pub and club bosses had raised concerns on the impact the levy would have on trade. It would have affected 202 businesses.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew, speaking after the meeting, said: "This just isn't right for Walsall. This would be an extra tax on businesses who employ local people in very difficult times."

Council leader Mike Bird said: "If this was brought in, you would see more and more businesses, especially in the pub trade, falling by the wayside."

Councillor Zahid Ali added: "This may work in some towns that have a real problem with late night pubs and clubs but at this stage it's just not for Walsall."

Dinner after
nurse tragedy
boosts charity

A CHARITY dinner, organised in memory of a Willenhall nurse who died from an asthma attack aged 22, has raised £10,500.

The dinner was in memory of Ramandeep Kaur, who died after a severe asthma attack during a night out with friends in February last year.

She had the condition from birth.

Hospital

The nurse, who had two sisters including twin Amandeep, worked at City Hospital in Birmingham.

A dinner organised by Ramandeep's sister Karen raised the money for Asthma UK. It included a £1,160 donation from Fortel Services Ltd employees.

Family terrified as
louts attack home

A FAMILY home was mistakenly targeted by teenage louts from Tipton who smashed windows while the occupants lay in fear for their lives inside, a court heard.

Lewis Haddock and Daniel Bull even returned to the property in Avenue Road, Darlaston, to cause more damage despite a police car being parked outside. The 19-year-olds had been chasing another man, Liam Bedworth, who cut through the garden of Dorothy and Peter Ward's home to hide and escape. They wrongly assumed he was inside.

The pair smashed a back window and a rock was put through the windscreen of the family VW car.

Police were called after the attack on November 17 and while they were taking statements there was an "explosion" as the two front windows were smashed. The patrol car was also damaged. Bull, of Castle Road,

by Craig Hughes

Taser use
increasing

TASER guns have been used on suspected criminals by West Midlands police officers 215 times in 2012, compared to four times in 2009.

Chiefs say the increase is the result of hundreds of the weapons being rolled out across the force.

Campaigners have raised concerns over the use of Tasers, which when discharged send a 50,000 volt through someone to temporarily incapacitate them.

The West Midlands force has almost 700 Taser stun guns at its disposal

pleaded guilty to criminal damage and Haddock, of Primrose Avenue, admitted two charges of criminal damage.

At Walsall Magistrates Court they were last week sentenced to eight weeks at a youth offenders' institute, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to do 80 hours' unpaid work.

The were each told to pay £482.50 to cover the costs of windows and excess for the insurance claim. They were both told to pay £750 compensation and an £80 surcharge. Haddock was also ordered to pay £200 for damage to the police car.

The teenagers were also given restraining orders from going into Avenue Road.

In a statement Mrs Ward said she no longer felt safe in her own home.

Mr Wykeham Garsia, defending, said Haddock and Bull had both previously been of good character.

Sentencing them, District Judge Michael Morris described them as louts who had left a family in fear.

Town's fashion first



Students Chloe Adcock and Dermot McNamara are organising Walsall Fashion Week event in the Saddlers Centre

WE'VE had London, Paris and Milan... and now Walsall is set to host its first fashion week.

The six-day charity event is taking place in the town centre and its young organisers say it will be aimed at "breaking down barriers".

Catwalk shows, a fashion market and tips on styling will be among the events on offer from Monday to Saturday, January 21 to 26.

Pop-up

It will all take place in a formerly empty retail unit at the Walsall Saddlers Centre, where a pop-up shop - known as Create at 48 - will spring into life to showcase the best in style.

The event has been organised by two enterprising teenagers, students Chloe Adcock and Dermot McNamara, and is being backed by Walsall College.

Dermot, who is 14, said: "We were inspired by the fact Walsall hasn't had such an event in the past."

"We wanted to do something that was quite different, that would be positive for the town," he added.

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'Show off' motorist locked up

A DRINK-DRIVER is behind bars after an attempt to "show off" to two teenage girl passengers led to a crash.

The pair of 15-year-olds were rear passengers when Jamie Greenfield, aged 20, of Walsall, was driving his nine-year-old Peugeot, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

A police patrol spotted the car being driven erratically in Turnberry Road, Walsall, last month and started to follow the vehicle, said prosecutor Miss Claire Harris.

The Peugeot was being driven in such a dangerous way that the police abandoned the pursuit.

Bus

Several vehicles, including a single decker bus, were forced to brake sharply, said Miss Harris.

The Peugeot lost a wheel when it hit the kerb. Greenfield had 75 microgrammes of breath in 100 millilitres of breath, more than twice the limit of 35.

Greenfield, of Bloxwich Road, Bloxwich, admitted dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and with excess alcohol.

He was ordered to be detained in a Young Offenders Institution for 15 months and banned from driving for three years.

Recorder Michael Stephens said: "If you were trying to show off to the girls, your driving was appalling."

Homes crisis brought up in Commons

WALSALL is facing an acute shortage of affordable social housing, Walsall North MP David Winnick has warned.

He raised the issue during a Commons debate when the Labour MP said the issue of affordable housing was one of the most common issues raised by constituents.

He has called for more to be done by the Government. "I emphasise that it is the lack of anywhere near sufficient affordable housing in the borough that explains the long waiting times, which can be very long indeed," Mr Winnick said in the Commons.

The Homes and Communities Agency told him no finance was available from now until 2015 for new homes planned by Walsall Housing Group.

Firm fined over lorry driver death

A LOGISTICS firm in Willenhall has been fined £300,000 after one of its drivers was killed by a runaway lorry. Russell Homer was beginning a night shift at Nightfreight (GB) Ltd's base in Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, when the accident happened.

The 44-year-old was crushed against a stationary vehicle when his own vehicle moved while he was attaching, or "coupling", the tractor unit to the trailer. The lorry continued to roll down a slope, travelling 27 metres, before crashing into a wall. Had it not been for the wall, it is feared the lorry could have carried on to the public highway.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found there had been issues over drivers coupling vehicles without following company rules. They were not applying the handbrake to the tractor unit or turning off the engine. Northampton Crown Court was told last week that

this was known to Nightfreight but workers were not monitored effectively to make sure they were following correct procedures. The HSE found no appropriate steps in place to prevent vehicles parked on the slope from rolling away.

Nightfreight, based in Birches Rise, pleaded guilty to breaching parts of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. It was fined £270,000 for breaching section 2(1) of the act and £30,000 for breaching section 3(1).

Preventable

The firm was also ordered to pay court costs of £26,000. Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Judith McNulty-Green said: "Mr Homer's death was entirely preventable and his life has needlessly been lost. It happened because of a poor and dangerous practice that the company was aware of but did nothing to stop."

She added that controls should have been put in place to make sure vehicles did not roll away.

"What is so disappointing is that there had been previous similar incidents at this company and at the same site," she said. "Lessons should have been learned from these but weren't."

Father-of-two Mr Homer, from Overstone, died at the scene from a chest injury.

In a statement, Nightfreight said: "Nightfreight's management team deeply regrets any failings linked to safety, health and environment in the past as well as the tragic repercussions that followed. The company's current management team acquired the business from the previous shareholder in March 2012, and none of the directors connected with this legal action remain part of the Nightfreight business today."

Easter start for last phase of park revamp

WORK on a visitors' centre that marks the final part of the multi-million pound revamp of Walsall Arboretum will start at Easter.

Legal and land issues are said to have caused delays to the start of work on the fifth and final stage of the £7.5 million project. It had originally been set to start at the end of last year.

Councillor steps out for hospice

A CAMPAIGNING councillor is raising money for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

Kath Phillips, WS3 Friends of Walsall Hospice Group founder, will walk five miles around King George V playing fields, Bloxwich.

She will do the walk at 10am on February 10, the anniversary of the death of her mother Muriel Fawdry.

Mrs Fawdry, who died in 1995 aged 78, has inspired Councillor Phillips' fundraising campaigns. She said: "My late mother who didn't have the opportunity to be cared for in a hospice."

St Giles Walsall Hospice is such a loving and peaceful environment."

WS3 Friends of Walsall Hospice raises money for the running costs of the facility in Goscot Lane, Goscot.

Cllr Phillips, who represents Bloxwich East, said the group is looking for more volunteers. To find out more or sponsor her call 01922 470649, or send cheques to Walsall Council House in Lichfield Street, Walsall.

The 'centre is the latest part of the transformation, which has already seen swathes of the park landscaped and revamps of the boathouse and bandstand.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "Things are progressing well with the Arboretum restoration.

Unexpected

"With a large project such as this there can be a number of unexpected developments beyond our control. However, the council is hopeful that these matters will be resolved shortly."

Cllr Harris said the restoration of the premier park was almost complete. But he added: "Legal problems and problems with certain areas of the land in there have stopped us from starting as soon as we would have liked."

The visitors' centre will have toilets, a cafeteria, meeting room and classroom, plus changing rooms and accommodation to support the transfer of the council's outdoor pursuits team to the park.

Work to replace the park's 1950s lido is nearing completion and will feature water jets. There are also moves to light up the park permanently in a bid to replace the axed illuminations.

Taxi driver saves great-gran's life



Darlington taxi driver Jay Afzal is thanked by Valerie Flowers after he helped save her life

A GREAT-GRAND-MOTHER from Darlington has thanked the taxi driver who helped save her life after she had a heart attack.

Jay Afzal had driven to Valerie Flowers's home to take her to an appointment at Walsall Dialysis Unit but he grew concerned when she failed to answer the door of her home.

He called police and paramedics when the 75-year-old, who regularly uses the firm, failed to answer his knock.

Mrs Flowers, who suffers from kidney problems and has to have dialysis treatment three times a week, has been using Darlington-based Yellow Cars for nine years.

Key

She said: "I couldn't move out of my chair and couldn't get my breath."

"He told the dialysis unit and they got in touch with my son."

"The paramedics and police arrived and my son had a key to let them in. Without Jay I would have died."

Mrs Flowers was taken to New Cross Hospital for further treatment.

Mr Afzal, aged 39, of Franchise Street, Darlington, said: "I'm glad she's OK. She's a lovely lady."

NEWS in brief

College popular with the students

WALSALL Adult and Community College has had a successful year, say council chiefs. Almost 100 per cent of students said they are satisfied with the service there.

Leisure chief Anthony Harris said the college, which has a base in Hawbush Road, Leamore, has "continued to progress its commitment to excellence in learning".

"Learner satisfaction with the service they receive is 99.8 per cent and over 90 per cent of employers we work with told us the training we provide is making a real difference in their company performance," he said.

Table revival bid in club comeback

A ROUND Table Club in Willenhall is looking to restart this year if it can recruit new members.

The local club, which closed in October, is hoping to start anew. Round Table internationally helps many charities.

Spokesman, Jason Thomson said the club hoped to have a lot of activities for members to get involved in. To find out how to join the Round Table visit www.roundtable.co.uk/findoutmore

Dance to fitness in new workout

A NEW dance workout for kids has been launched at Walsall Galia Baths.

Youngsters aged 8 to 12 can enjoy dance sessions at the Tower Street venue on Mondays from 4 to 5pm.

Classes cost £3.50 or £25 for 10 weeks. Adult sessions will be held from February 6 at 6pm and cost £4.

For more information call (01922) 653150

Apprentices get ambulance jobs

TWO mechanics from Walsall College have been given jobs after training to become ambulance technicians.

Ashley Wood from Coseley and Sam Price from Rubery, both aged 21, began their motor vehicle apprenticeships with the service in March 2010.

Heritage of canals is topic for meeting

STREETLY Local History Group will be discussing the canal heritage at Blackwood Methodist Church on Wednesday, January 23, from 10am to noon. Admission is £2, including tea or coffee.

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NEWS

Planning changes will hit council coffers hard

CASH-STRAPPED Walsall Council faces losing out on up to £55,000 a year under changes to planning regulations.

The Government is relaxing the planning rules this year in a bid to boost the economy. It would mean smaller extensions to businesses and homes would not need to go before the council for planning permission.

The Government states it wants to make it "quicker, easier and cheaper to build small-scale single storey extensions and conservatories." It is claimed the plans will benefit 40,000 families nationwide a year who want to build straightforward extensions.

Revenue

But councils across the Midlands face losing revenue they normally receive from fees for processing planning applications.

Walsall Council has revealed it would lose between £35,000 to £55,000 a year in fees.

The reforms, proposed to run for a three-year period, will save an average home owner up to £2,500 from a combination of planning and professional fees.

Walsall's head of planning and building control David Elsworth, said:

by Craig Hughes

"The three-year proposal will result in the loss of planning income as a direct result of the loss of planning applications not being submitted to the council. It is anticipated that this could amount to approximately 200 to 300 applications per year."

He warned the relaxation of the planning rules could also lead to neighbour disputes over at buildings created without supervision. Around 160,000 larger projects will continue to go through the planning system nationally.

The Government believes the proposals will bring extra work to the construction companies and small traders worth £600 million.

There was a consultation period for authorities to make their observations to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Personnel triumph



Award-winner Stacey Russell with lecturer Kevin Willmore

A WALSALL College learner has been named Student of the Year by the body for her industry. Stacey Russell, who left her job as a medical secretary at the Manor Hospital to study human resources, was given the award by the Black Country branch of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development. The 26-year-old from Willenhall said: "Returning to the classroom after a four year break was a little daunting but I was determined to succeed and worked hard."

Football history call

A HISTORIAN from Walsall is looking for help to kick off his new book chronicling football in the Victorian Midlands. Author Mike Bradbury is looking for photos and information on 19th Century teams, particularly those in Aston.

Entitled 'Lost Teams of the Midlands', the book is due to be launched this spring. Call Mike Bradbury on 07805 694316 or email him on mbradbury24@yahoo.co.uk

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NEWS

Brewery is bucking trend by expanding



Austen Morgan celebrates the growing success of the Backyard Brewhouse, based in Brownhills

THE £200,000 expansion of a Brownhills brewery, poised to create new jobs and increase beer production by 150 per cent, has been completed.

Backyard Brewhouse at the Gatehouse Trading Estate has undergone a massive transformation, and new equipment has been installed which will allow the firm to produce 50 barrels a week.

The firm recently secured a new contract to supply pub company Punch Taverns and is expecting to reach full capacity in March.

The expansion has seen the five-year-old brewery in Lichfield Road grow from 1,400 sq ft to 2,500 sq ft.

Tours

Bosses have also announced they intend to start running tours of the new-look brewery in the same month. Director Austen Morgan said: "The

brewery is looking very nice now."

Brewery bosses also recently took over The Fountain Inn, in Lower Forster Street, Walsall, and reopened the 150-year-old pub last month after a revamp costing almost £100,000.

Licencee John Horton, aged 59, of Fullbrook, said: "It has gone swimmingly. We are very pleased. It's been completely refurbished because it was in poor condition but now it looks great and we have an open fire in the lounge."



Cheers – Licencee John Horton celebrates the reopening of The Fountain Inn, Walsall

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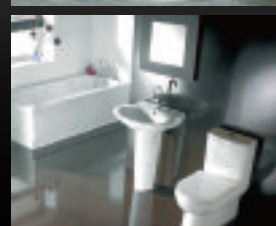


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NEWS

Cotton picking challenge for young entrepreneurs



The roots of the fashion trade – students from Walsall College join workers toiling in the cotton fields of India

STUDENTS from Walsall College recently returned from a week working in the cotton fields of India.

The group of students called the 'Dynamic Designs' team visited Semla in Rajasthan after winning this year's Pantrepreneur challenge for their award-winning under-pants design.

In India they lived with families and worked picking cotton, which will be used to manufacture the next Pants to Poverty collection, which will be on sale at major retailers in the spring.

Money raised by the students during the challenge will go towards sanitation, sports and teaching equipment for the schools the team visited.

They also visited the factory, Armstrong Spinning Mills, in Tirrupur, where their pants will be produced.

More than 250 students from 15 colleges across the UK were

tasked with designing, marketing and selling their own range of 'Olympic-themed' pants, which raised £20,000.

Ben Ramsden, founder, Pants to Poverty, said: "The Pantrepreneur Challenge 2012 was a life-transforming experience for the students who took part. The entrepreneurs who emerged were completely different people from the young people who started out."

Experience

"This trip to India is the culmination of the experience for the Walsall students who so vowed us back in June with their business pitch."

Shaun Welch, 26, from Walsall Wood was one of the students to go on the trip.

He said: "For some of us it was a complete shock but I loved every minute of it. What stood out was that we were welcomed everywhere with open arms. The people we stayed with shared everything they had, it was a beautiful and humbling experience."



The village turns out to welcome the students

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NEWS

Government money to spend on road mending

Learners have new mentor



Student mentor at Walsall Adult & Community College Becky Gardiner MORE more than 40 students have taken their first steps on the career ladder by enrolling on Walsall Adult & Community College's academy programmes.

Over the next five months the students, who are all aged 16 to 24, will learn new skills as they forge career paths in sport, construction, health and social care and business.

Helping these learners is new

student mentor Becky Gardiner who has been seconded to the college from employment firm Prospects, a post funded by Walsall Works.

Becky's role is to support and encourage these learners, many of whom were NEETs - not in employment, education or training. She said: "I grew up in Walsall so I understand the difficulties many young people are facing today."

A CASH boost to improve roads across Walsall will help make a "real difference".

Walsall Council has welcomed the news that it is being given a half-a-million-pound share of a £1.5 billion Government cash pot for highways.

A total of £540,000 will be spent on improving roads throughout the Walsall borough.

It could be spent on filling in potholes and helping to reduce congestion. The cash will be allocated over the next two years.

Roads chief Tom Ansell said: "We welcome this news that national Government will be providing the borough with additional funding to improve our road network and help reduce congestion.

Smoother

"There is still lots of work to be done and we could always do with more funding, but this is a big boost which will really help make a difference and improve our roads."

The £1.5b cash pot was revealed in the Chancellor's Autumn statement.

Patrick McLoughlin, transport secretary, has said the funding can be spent on measures to "bring smoother, safer and more reliable journeys to the travelling public".

Local authorities will be asked to give details of how they intend to spend the cash and will have to produce a short statement on their websites.

Residents clean up

A RESIDENTS' group has been working to help clean up green belt land in Walsall and restore it to its former glory.

Friends Around the Lea have been working closely with Walsall Council Parks, Green Spaces, Street Pride and councillors to safeguard the future of the Goscote site.

The group is also working with Walsall Housing Group to clean up derelict sites on the former Poets and Goscote Estates.

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NEWS

Council may invest in shops centre scheme

Returning to work



Sarah Mendez and Lee Joiner are now working for Iceland

A BROWNHILLS man who was battling depression after being out of work for three years has told how his life changed when he finally landed a job.

Lee Joiner, 35, had been struggling to find a reason to get out of bed after ill health forced him to leave his foundry job. He contacted the Walsall offices of Peritemps People Development Group (PPDG), which provides training for unemployed people through the government's Work Programme.

Within a week he had been offered a full-time job with food store Iceland, where he now works as a home delivery co-ordinator.

Mr Joiner said: "I saw my coach on Monday, had a practice interview on Tuesday, followed by the real thing on Wednesday before being offered a full time job on Thursday. That's what I call a great result."

"I had always worked before finding myself unemployed for three years, which totally destroyed my confidence."

Mr Joiner was one of ten PPDG clients taken on at Iceland's new store in Bloxwich. Another was Sarah Mendez, a 29-year-old single mother from Walsall who now works flexible hours while her son is in childcare.

A MULTI-MILLION-POUND council cash injection is expected to finally start the delayed transformation of a Walsall shopping centre.

Walsall Council is preparing to step in and stump up cash to help get work on new long-awaited Primark and Co-op stores off the ground.

The shops, creating 150 jobs, are part of the first phase of the £21 million revamp of the Old Square Shopping Centre, in Bridge Street, following the departure of Tesco which has relocated to a purpose-built store.

Work was expected to get under way in spring last year. But it has yet to begin with an objection from an unnamed third party believed to have initially held up the scheme.

The exact level of investment being considered by the council has not been revealed at this stage but is described as "substantial."

Bosses are now looking at the best way of ensuring the key regeneration project starts this year.

Confidence

Regeneration chief councillor Adrian Andrew said: "We are looking at options for how support can be offered to work in partnership with owner Threadneedle to deliver Primark and Co-op and these could include investing in the land and the development itself."

"We understand how important this development is for businesses and shoppers in Walsall town centre."

"We have been working with Threadneedle for some time and they have already shown their commitment to Walsall by demolishing the detested Overstrand at our request."

"Influences outside of Walsall have contributed to the delay of this project but cabinet will be asked to consider stepping in and making a substantial capital investment into the scheme, while further work is carried out to identify the best mechanism for securing the delivery of the project."

He said the council's support would demonstrate confidence in the project.

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CLUB NEWS

Display of belly dancing Tapestry the topic of talented embroiderer

WORDSLEY 'M' TWG

THE December meeting was opened by chairman of the day Wendy Lloyd.

In the Federation report, members were asked if they would be interested in an afternoon concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and a show at Malvern in late spring.

The 'Prize Every Time' chocolates stall at the Wordsley Community Centre Christmas Bazaar on November 24 was a success.

The next lunch club meeting will be on February 4 at The Swan, Kingswinford. Garden/coffee mornings will resume in the early spring.

Pat Kilvert was congratulated on her Golden Wedding anniversary.

This year, at every meeting, a sales table of books, unwanted gifts would be very welcome to add revenue to the funds to cover speakers and other expenses.

Wendy introduced the entertainers for our Christmas social, a group of belly dancers.

Information was given about Macular Degeneration Society, a cause the group supports. A bring and share buffet lunch followed.

The next group meeting will be on Monday February 18, a 'Quiz and Natter' with subscriptions of £25 due.

The guild meets every third Monday at Wordsley Green Community Centre at 10am.



Barbara Marshall was a guest at the last meeting, talking about the Burntwood Tapestry

BONEY HAY AND CHASE TERRACE WI

THE new year began with a visit from the talented Barbara Marshall. Barbara has been a welcome visitor several times during last year and it was a pleasure to see her again.

Her topic this time was 'The Burntwood Tapestry', which can be seen at Burntwood Library.

This work was designed by Barbara and with some help from a small number of needleworkers, a beautiful picture was made. In the centre of the tapestry is depicted the Coat of Arms for Chasetown which is surrounded by pictures of many sights in and around Burntwood, some of which are sadly now gone. Beaudesert Hall which was sold in 1921 was taken from a very old photograph and shows a very large and imposing house which was the home of the Marquis of Anglesey.

Another large house stands at Edial built in the 16th century, where in 1909 Dr Samuel Johnson held his school for a year with a total of three pupils.

Hammerwich Cottage Hospital was built in 1881 and maintained by the miners who contributed two-pence per week for the upkeep. It is now closed and the ground covered with houses. There are several churches depicted, one of which is St Annes in Chasetown, noted for being the first church in England to be lit by electricity.

St Josephs Roman Catholic Church in Chasetown is now demolished and a new building stands on Lichfield Road, Burntwood. There are scenes of Chasewater, and windmills in Hammerwich and Gentleshaw.

Everyone a winner at raffle

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The evening ended with a bumper raffle, as everyone was a winner.

The first 2013 meeting is at The British Legion on February 7 with Fiona Lucas talking about her hobby of collecting tea towels.

THE December meeting was a very festive affair, the room festooned with streamers and tables laden with a buffet and desserts. Some 45 members attended.

The chairman gave seasonal greeting to everyone, including guests Malcolm Hewitt and Jean Hadley.

Malcolm thanked the

group for inviting him and for presenting him with a number of knitted blankets for the Fistula Hospital. The organisation has received

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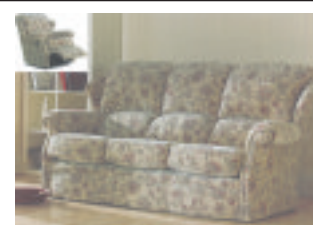
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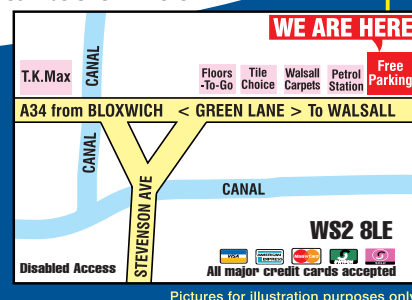
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LETTERS

Does your council want to wash its hands of education?

AT A recent Walsall Council meeting a report on School Buildings was discussed. The School Buildings report failed to include facts on future pupil numbers, class sizes, special needs, parent and pupil school choices, or the list of schools preparing to transfer to Academy status. Indeed, it failed to address the most basic issues that allow local people to become fully informed about Walsall Council's performance or plans.

Where is your child being taught? In a modern, well designed, heated, welcoming classroom or a temporary mobile facility that may be welcoming but lacks space, leaks heating and school budgets on repairs and maintenance costs?

Plan
Many parents across Walsall collect their children from buildings that were intended as a temporary solution. Overhead cables, unsightly water pipes, temporary steps and banners are common place at local schools. Dedicated and hard working teachers are being let down too.

This hapless situation has been brought about by both Walsall Councils and Serco's failure to plan for our young people's needs. Fail to plan and you plan to fail.

At a time when Walsall Council's maintained school exam results have dropped dramatically, local building companies are desperate for work and, most importantly of all, parents demand better schools for their children, why has Walsall Council not delivered school buildings and design that assist young people in their education?

Perhaps Walsall Council's secret plan is to wash their hands of your children's education by letting all schools become academies. Look at academies across Walsall, are they producing better exam results or opportunities?

One thing is certain, Walsall Council needs to re prioritise its capital spend to give our schools better facilities and end the adhoc development of a "make-do" culture in schools. Only the best will do for our children.

COUNCILLOR DOUG JAMES
Horton Street
Walsall

LETTERS to the Editor

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Don't fine the Manor - give it more funds

I WAS appalled at the report in last week's Chronicle that the Manor Hospital has been fined £18,500 for missing targets. The Manor has been fined by who? Where or who has this money been paid to?

The people of Walsall have much to be grateful for in that we have the Manor on our doorstep.

My wife and I have every reason to thank the dedicated hardworking doctors and nurses at the Manor for the wonderful care that they have given to us many years.

Overworked
Don't these nameless paper shufflers who seek to impose fines for ridiculous targets realise that the doctors and nurses are very often overworked, underpaid and short staffed because funding has already been cut.

Surely more money should be allocated to hospitals like the Manor so that improvements, if needed, can be made. Taking money away can and will only make matters worse.

Please, leave our hospitals alone so that they can continue to help the good folk of Walsall as they have done since the days of Sister Dora!

BARRIE FARNELL
via email

Whatever their wriggling justification given by Labour councillors for this, the reality is that due to the unpopularity of the Conservative/Liberal Coalition Government, in 2014 Labour hope that control of Walsall Council will fall to them - just because people will be fed up of the other lot.

Consequently, they can become the beneficiaries of the disgraceful pay rise decision that they allowed to go through at the January 7 Council meeting.

Do they really think the people of Walsall are so stupid that they cannot see this?

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NEWS

More than 120 complaints over children's social care

MORE than 120 complaints were lodged against children's social care services in Walsall in 12 months. More than 200 issues were raised within the complaints.

The largest area of concern was staff conduct. Eight complaints were formally investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman, of which two resulted in a finding of maladministration.

It comes after a damning Ofsted inspection published last autumn. The inspection found that vulnerable children in the borough were left at potential risk of harm.

Improvements

Walsall Council says improvements have been made since the complaints, down from 140 the previous year.

Councillor Rachel Andrew, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We do all we can to investigate any complaints efficiently and as fairly as possible and ensure we follow up and embed learning from them."

Artist's eye for detail



Artist Ced Davis is displaying his paintings at the Chasewater Innovation Centre, Pools Lane, Brownhills LANDSCAPES from around the world are on display in a new exhibition of paintings by a Rushall artist. The 35 acrylic paintings by great-grandfather-of-one Ced Davis are on display at Chasewater Innovation Centre, Pool Road, Brownhills, until Saturday, January 26.

Self-taught artist Mr Davis, aged 76, is also selling his works which are priced between £350 and £850. Mr Davis, of Lichfield Road, said: "There are scenes from Venice, Sydney, Stockholm and around the world."

"I broke my back when I was about 60. I couldn't continue my job as a builder. I started to paint in 1998, just before the doctors found out I had a brain tumour and I had to have an operation in 2000."

"I started life as an engineer and a draughtsman. I've always been able to draw. I work with acrylic paints and I try to include lots of detail in my paintings. That's why they take so long. Some take me 10 days while others have taken two-and-a-half months."

Robber stole phone from autistic boy

A ROBBER who threatened an autistic schoolboy with a glass bottle to steal his mobile phone has been spared an immediate prison sentence.

Jordan Griffiths, aged 20, demanded the phone as the boy was leaving a shopping precinct in Willenhall on July 20 last year. After the boy refused, Griffiths raised the glass bottle and then searched his victim's pockets before finding and making off with the phone.

by Alex Ross

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Griffiths, of Gough Street, Willenhall, was given a 36-week sentence in a detention unit for young offenders, suspended for 18 months. He had pleaded guilty to robbery.

'Cowardly'

Griffiths, who suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, was also given a supervision requirement for 18 months and a curfew to stay in his home between 7pm and 7am for three months.

Sentencing him, Recorder

Michael Stephens said: "This was a cowardly robbery of a vulnerable victim, it was committed while you were under the influence of alcohol, it wasn't that long after you got treatment for alcohol problems."

He added: "If your behaviour carries on there will be prison sentences which will get longer and longer every time."

The court heard that Griffiths later returned the £135 phone to the victim's parent, but without the sim card.

Brothers attacked

A FATHER-OF-THREE who took part in an attack on brothers wearing Indian cricket shirts in Walsall has been given a suspended jail term.

The brothers had been watching a test match between India and Sri Lanka when they were pounced on by three men in an alleyway near the Bradford Arms pub.

Vaseem Qayoom was later identified as one of the assailants in the attack in April 2011. The 32 year-old of Walstead Road, Walsall, admitted affray and was given an eight-month suspended prison term at Wolverhampton Crown Court. Recorder Michael Burrows QC said the attack came when Qayoom was "in drink" but Qayoom had now cut out alcohol.

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NEWS

Pupils brush up on dental knowledge



Dentist Yusuf Kaderbhai and hygienist Kaye Higgs with Year Five pupils at Hydesville Tower School in Walsall. PUPILS at Hydesville Tower School were recently visited by the team from Walsall practice WS4 Dental Care and their dinosaur mascot to help teach children how to look after their teeth.

Principal dentist Yusuf Kaderbhai and hygienist/therapist Kaye Higgs explained to pupils how their teeth grow and how to brush each section of their mouth properly to ensure every surface is cleaned. The children enjoyed

watching the brushing demonstrations on WS4's cuddly toy dinosaur, who has big teeth to show brushing techniques.

Mr Kaderbhai said: "We had a fantastic time visiting the school and it was very rewarding to see the pupils contributing so enthusiastically to discussions about how to take care of their teeth. While regular visits to the dentist are an essential part of dental care, it's important to keep up the good work at home through a good brushing technique."

Fly-tip site to be sold off

ALMOST an acre of land that has become a fly-tipping hotspot has been put up for sale by Walsall Council.

The old Castleview Residential Home, in Moxley, was demolished in 2009. Developers are now being asked to buy and redevelop the site in Castle View Road.

Less than a mile away another acre site off Rowley View has also been put on the market by Walsall Council.

Darlaston South's Councillor Chris Bott said the money raised should be spent on the town.

"We have been asking for the Castleview site to go up for sale for a while. It's been derelict for a few years," she said.

"There is fly-tipping on there all the time and it costs money to get it cleaned up."

Potential

"It would be nice to see a small development or a care home there."

The site in Castle View Road, at the junction of Castle View Close, has been marketed as a potential residential or care home development site, while the Rowley View site is said to have residential potential.

Both sites are currently open to offers, with the price expected to be guided by what developers want to build on the land.

The closing date for offers is noon on March 15.

Castleview Residential Home was shut down in 2008 as part of changes to replace old people's homes with warden-controlled flats.

Housing 21, which closed the home, took control of council-run pensioner homes as part of a £38 million overhaul of care for the elderly.

It had been targeted by vandals and burglars before being bulldozed.

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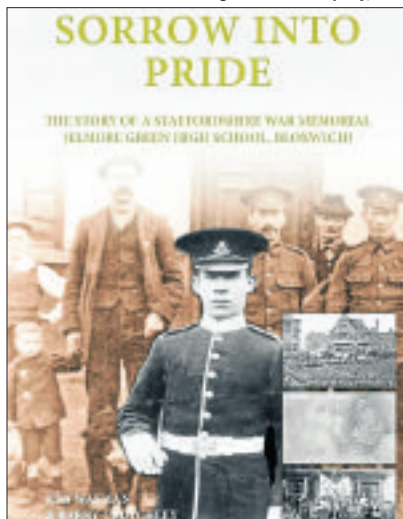
South Staffordshire Regiment's D Company, Bloxwich Terriers, pictured in 1914



Elmore Green Primary School memorial



Rows and rows of Walsall Territorials get ready to march off to the First World War in 1914



Sorrow Into Pride – a history of the Elmore Green Primary School old boys who fought in the First World War

Long-lost memorial of school's fallen heroes

by Tom Mason

THE story of a once lost and forgotten war memorial and the town which history it represents, has been brought back to life by in a new book by Bloxwich authors.

The Elmore Green School Old Boys' Association war memorial was unveiled in the school hall in 1922.

The 458-page book *Sorrow Into Pride* traces the families and experiences of the 66 Bloxwich men named on the alabaster stone.

The book is not only about the men on the memorial but the stone dedication itself.

It was lost during the school's many changes. During demolition it was stored away only to be reunited with what is left of the

school in which it once stood earlier last year.

Many of Bloxwich's young men signed up from the start of the war and went to fight with the British Expeditionary force as part of fifth battalion South Staffordshire Territorial Regiment.

Among them were William 'Cox' Lavender, Horace Downes, Leonard Malpass, George Sargent, Jack Parton, Joseph Handy and George Groves.

They were part of the Bloxwich 'Terriers' D Company based at the local drill hall, otherwise known as Bloxwich Public Hall, on the corner of Wolverhampton Road.

Many who went to serve would not come home and would later be recognised on the stone.

Although many of the men on the memorial are listed as infantryman, some joined other forces including the Royal Navy, the newly-formed Royal Flying Corp, which became the Royal Air Force, and many of the cavalry units still presents on the battlefields of the First World War.

Authors Ken Wayman, from Walsall, who taught history at TP Riley Comprehensive, Bloxwich, for 26 years, and Barry Crutchley, who was born in Bloxwich close to Elmore Green School and still lives in the area, spent years researching the tales associated with the men and their memorial for the book.

Copies cost £18.99 from www.revaillepress.com. Proceeds go towards The Western Front Association.



A call to arms – a news cutting from the First World War urging the men of Walsall to sign up at the local recruiting office



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NEWS

Award for volunteer



Former nurse Andy Brown, of Walsall, shows his award and certificate from the Multiple Sclerosis Society

A FORMER nurse from Walsall has been given a top award for his tireless work with the MS Society.

Andy Brown, who himself has multiple sclerosis, said he was "humbled" to have been given the award. The 48-year-old is secretary of the Black Country branch of the MS Society. The award recognises his outstanding contribution to the branch.

As secretary, he organises

regular meetings, liaises with the media and sends out correspondence on behalf of the group and its members.

Mr Brown, of West Bromwich Road, said: "I couldn't believe it when they gave me the award."

"For the first time in my life, I think I was speechless. I just feel so humbled to have been recognised in this way."

Inheritance kept secret as cheat got his benefit

A BENEFIT fraudster from Walsall swindled more than £51,000 by keeping an inheritance secret from the authorities, a court heard.

by Craig Hughes

Stephen Rooker falsely claimed income support, council tax and housing benefits over a seven-year period, Walsall Magistrates Court was told.

The 57-year-old, from Aldridge, started claiming benefits in 1992 but later failed to notify officials at the Department for Work and Pensions and Walsall Council that he had inherited nearly £12,000.

Claimed

The court heard he had fraudulently claimed the cash between 2004 and 2011 after failing to report a change in circumstances.

Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said: "Rooker claimed benefits between 1992 and 2011. During that time he received an inheritance of nearly £12,000."

Information regarding Rooker was received by the authorities, sparking an

investigation. Rooker was interviewed and admitted failing to declare the funds that he had inherited.

Mrs Meakin added: "The total overpayment is £51,020.10."

"Given the amount, this matter needs to go to the crown court."

Rooker, of Cornwell Close, was walking on crutches and was dressed in a black coat and grey trousers during his appearance on Wednesday.

He admitted two charges of failing to tell the authorities about a change in circumstances which he knew would affect his entitlement to benefits.

The case was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court, where Rooker is due to be sentenced on Wednesday, February 6.

He was released on unconditional bail.

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FOCUS ON BLOXWICH

Wendy wins a special award



Bill and Wendy Smith
A BLOXWICH woman has received a national award for her "unfailing commitment" to her husband and other stroke survivors.

Wendy Smith, 65, received a Life After Stroke certificate from the Stroke Association after being nominated by family and friends.

Wendy, who lives off Lichfield Road, said: "I was just doing something I wanted to do to help my husband."

Husband Bill suffered a stroke in 2009, leaving him with speech difficulties, cognitive and psychological problems. Wendy left her job as a market trader to look after him. She said: "Caring for Bill has enriched and added to my life as much as it has taken away."

She now helps run a monthly support group for other victims at the Stan Ball Centre.

Homes for rent to be built on vandal-hit wasteland

COUNCIL bosses have given the go-ahead for a £3.6million development of 37 homes to be built on vandal-hit wasteland in Bloxwich.

Work is due to start on the properties, which will be available to rent, on Fisher Road next month.

They will be built upon empty land once occupied by a set of 70 maisonettes that were demolished in 2009, after becoming a hot spot for anti-social behaviour and arson attacks.

Developers Walsall Housing Group submitted plans in September following a consultation with residents.

That highlighted issues with parking, leading to the proposed creation of 56 off-street parking spaces.

Gardens

The two and three bedroom properties designed by Birmingham based BM3 Architecture will be equipped with ensuite bathrooms, modern interiors and sizeable gardens.

A foot path will be created to connect the properties to Hilton Close, eventually replacing the footpath that runs between the development and the neighbouring rail line.

Council planning chiefs said that developers must ensure that a thorough contamination site survey is carried out so that any potential danger from ground gases be dealt with

before work can go ahead on the new homes.

Mark Tranter, head of development at Walsall Housing Group, said: "We know there is a strong need for more affordable homes in our area, and this scheme is one way we are looking to address that."

"We are committed to developing affordable housing to ensure people in need have access to quality homes."

"Following consultation events we have held with residents to discuss our plans, we know that local people are happy to be seeing the site, which has been derelict for a number of years, be developed into family homes."

Hertfordshire-based contractors Willmott Dixon will be responsible for completion of the project.

It is hoped that the first tenants will be able to move in to their homes by March 2014.

by Tom Mason

Cinderella is ready to have a ball



Cinderella is being performed at the Bloxwich Bookmark with, from left, Jennifer Spratt, Nathan Barry, Mark Rigg-Bishop, Nathan Bapp and, front, Kendal Morgan

A THEATRE group from Willenhall are staging a pantomime in Bloxwich this week.

Essential Productions is staging three performances of Cinderella, helped by its sister company, Youth Essential Theatre Group Association.

The show is staged at Bookmark Bloxwich in Elmore Row tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

Slapstick

Alexander Rigby-Bishop, director of the show, said: "It's a weird and wacky version of the story."

"There's lots of singing and dancing and slapstick comedy."

"There's some absolutely brilliant men dressed as dames. We have started to do a panto annually."

Around 15 make up the cast, who have been rehearsing since September.

There will be a performance at 7pm on both nights and a matinee at 2pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £8 to £12.50. To book call 01902 637959 or visit www.yetga.co.uk

NEWS in brief

Gym conversion for industrial unit

PLANS to turn an empty industrial unit in Bloxwich into a fitness facility have been given approval by council bosses

The application to convert the Modern Saddlery building, Leamore Lane, into a gym was put forward by Change ur Shape, formerly of Wednesbury. The company plans to spend around £20,000 on its refurbishment including the creation of a crèche that will allow parents to complete a 30 minute workout.

The gym set over two floors will feature a dedicated training circuit and ladies only gym, with special classes.

Afternoon dinner dancing at centre

A TRADITIONAL dinner dance is being held at the Stan Ball community centre this weekend.

The event at the Centre, Abbotts Street, starts at 1pm on Sunday and will feature a two-course meal followed by an afternoon of sequence dance until 5.30pm. Admission costs £3 and the meal £4.80.

For more information contact Sylvia Webster (01922) 414594 or Karen at Stan Ball reception on (01922) 403351

Drainage work to close busy street

WORK to improve drainage will see Stoney Lane closed for 20 weeks at its junction with Lambourn Close.

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Self-drive breaks

Departures most weekends

FROM £99.95 (Friday Night)

FROM £109.95 (Saturday Night)

The self-drive break is for one evening staying either on the Friday night or Saturday night in a three or four-star hotel. You will see the evening performance: for Friday night you will have a top price ticket and for Saturday evening there is a choice of price bands. Stay extra nights for a reasonable supplement (subject to availability).

* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For a theatre brochure please call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),
or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

NEWS

Gallery plan for Hoard items to go on display

TREASURES from the Staffordshire Hoard could go on display in a specially-created gallery if a museum's bid for lottery funding is successful.

Discovered in a field in Hammerwich, the hoard of gold and silver items is the largest collection of Anglo Saxon artefacts in the world, jointly owned by Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent Museums.

And some of the artefacts could soon be exhibited in an interactive, up-close-and-personal gallery at Birmingham Museum, spanning more than 750 sq ft.

Displaying

The area displaying the hoard in Birmingham currently is only around 165 sq ft.

Head of programming at the museum, Toby Watley, said the planned gallery would provide something for everyone.

He said: "The idea is that the gallery will be able to fit a lot more material in

by Kirsten Rawlins

than our current space. We're hoping to use the gallery to show the hoard's international links, as well as the craftsmanship that's gone into making the items and the processes which would have been used.

"We're also looking to create a gallery that's more accessible and informative for a wider audience.

"We want there to be something there for schools and children, as well as for adults and those with a specific interest in the hoard."

The museum expects to hear whether its bid for a grant has been successful by March.

Curator for the museum, Dr David Symons, said he believed the hoard was one of the most significant finds in the past century for British archaeology.

County archaeologist for Staffordshire, Stephen Dean, has given his full support to the plans.

He said: "It's such an important, internationally significant find and therefore deserves a venue that allows people to approach it in its full splendour."

Meanwhile, campaigners in Walsall who are calling for a monument to be built to mark the place where the Staffordshire Hoard was discovered will meet with council officers to discuss their proposals.

The Staffordshire Hoard, the largest collection of Dark Ages gold ever found in the UK, was found in Hammerwich and on the border with Brownhills in July 2009.

Brownhills resident Doug Birch said campaigners want a viewing platform to be placed near the location.

Involved

He said: "Visitors will be able to look at the spot where it was found.

"We are going to be working with council officers to get something done. There are a number of councils involved."

During a recent council meeting Mr Birch asked why there had been no exhibition in Walsall to highlight the town's links to the major archaeological find.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Encouraging locals to get fit and stay fit

WALSALL has launched an innovative new concessionary pricing policy for its residents to encourage more people in the borough to get fit and active.

To stay healthy or to improve health, adults need to do two types of physical activity each week: aerobic and muscle-strengthening activity.

Key features of the new scheme are new eligibility categories, including: household income of under £16,000, customers with health or weight concerns, ages 60 and over and children of adults holding a Move It membership. The membership is only open to residents of the Borough of Walsall.

Exercise

You can apply for the new Move It card if your doctor or other health professional has advised you to either lose weight or get more exercise to improve your health.

How much physical activity you need to do each week depends on your age, and this card allows you to use your local leisure centre whenever it is open, at a price of £2 a session on a pay as you go basis. Alternatively, if customers want to make really big savings Move It members can opt for a monthly direct debit membership at £10 a month for one activity or

£14 for two activities from: swimming, classes or fitness and enjoy unlimited visits per month.

Options

There are lots of guidelines for how much activity is recommended, and the truth is any increase in your level of physical activity will give you a health benefit – start small and build it up to a sustainable level for you. If you would

like more guidance then visit your local leisure centre and ask about the options available for you.

It's never too late to get some health benefits by exercising regularly. Achieving recommended levels of physical activity cuts the risk of heart disease, stroke and type-two diabetes by up to 50 per cent.

Membership costs £2 for a year and is valid

for use at any of Walsall's leisure centres or swimming pools.

The activities are no more than £2 and will be available at all times – significantly expanding the availability of sporting opportunities to residents. Walsall has four leisure centres – Darlaston Swimming Pool, Bloxwich Leisure Centre, Oak Park Leisure Centre and Walsall Gala Baths. Each centre offers a variety of

activities, not just gyms and swimming – the card is available for classes including spinning, circuit training and aerobics as well as the more traditional swimming, fitness suites and sports hall activities.

If you're not sure of what activity is best for you, Walsall Council's Health and Wellbeing Team can offer support and guidance. They can be contacted on 01922 658080.



Walsall borough residents, young and old, can stay healthy or improve fitness with a range of activities at its leisure centres



Good for you – achieving recommended levels of physical activity cuts the risk of heart disease, stroke and type-two diabetes by up to 50 per cent



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Can I book in advance?

Some activities will need to be booked in advance, some you can just turn up and join in.

Booking restrictions may apply.

Please check at the leisure centre where the activity is being held, or online at www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk

You must be a resident of Walsall borough.

All activities subject to availability – please check.

- If you are on a low income
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- If you need to lose weight to improve your health
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This card is for YOU!



Walsall Council

NEWS

Search for the prettiest pet pooch



Dog walk but no catwalk for Scruffy, the pet dog of Ancol director Simon Lane launches the search for dog models

Supporters of museum meet

A MEET and greet with residents and supporters of a historic transport museum in Walsall is taking place on Sunday. People are being invited to Aston Manor Road Transport Museum on January 20 from 2pm to 5pm to discuss what they would like to see from the museum.

It comes after the collection of up to 30 vehicles moved to a new base in Shenstone Drive, after securing its immediate future.

Relocate

Volunteers were told they needed to relocate from their previous home on Beecham Business Park, Aldridge.

They were helped in finding the new unit following an appeal in The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star.

The charity had moved to the business park from its original home in Birmingham after a dispute with the city council over rent.

WE'VE had Britain's Next Top Model – and now the search is on to find the region's next top dog model.

A pet accessories firm has launched a campaign to find a canine model to front its new season catalogue.

Ancol in Leamore Lane, Bloxwich, which has been operating for more than 40 years, wants pet owners to send in photos of their dog to be in with a chance of winning the competition.

Sales director Sarah Lane said: "We have launched this exciting competition to find the new face of Ancol and would welcome all types and breeds of dogs to take part."

Casting

"We'll be inviting up to 15 dogs to come along to our casting day so we can meet them and take their photo. So don't delay, send in a photo of your dog today."

Photos, the dog's name, breed and owner's contact details should be sent to dogmodel@ancol.co.uk by 5pm on February 22. The casting day will be held on March 9 at Ancol's offices. The winning dog will take pride of place on the front cover of Ancol's 2013/14 catalogue.

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*First Buy is available on selected plots only. Terms and conditions apply, subject to status and qualification. Full details are available from our Sales Team. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other loan secured against it, be sure you can afford the repayments before entering in to a credit agreement. * Photos depict a typical Ashbury showhome.

*3D Smart TV received on legal completion



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NEWS

Ladies try their luck



Tracy Whittingham and Adam Starr with the women who turned up for auditions for the Ladykillers show
LADIES lined up at a Wolverhampton theatre for a chance to take part in the latest West End play to hit the city.

They were auditioning at the Grand Theatre for a starring role in The Ladykillers alongside Michelle Dotrice, who played Frank Spencer's long-suffering wife Betty in the hit 1970s sitcom Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em.

There were four parts up for grabs and 24 ladies from the Black Country and Staffordshire auditioned last week for the comedy roles. The production runs January 28 to February 2.

Record low figures for crimes in our region

WEST Midlands Police has recorded its lowest ever crime figures for a single month, beating the previous record by almost six per cent, it has been revealed.

The number of crimes reported last month was 13,811, which was 861 offences lower than the previous best from September 2012. Bosses said the figures were in no way "fudged" as they were based on stringent parameters that have been in place since 2002.

And it comes despite high-profile campaigns urging people to report offences such as domestic abuse and drink driving.

Renewed

Senior officers attributed the drop to robust offender management, close partnership working and the vigilance of the general public. In December they ran the force's annual Christmas campaign to get drink and drug drivers off the road, while there was a renewed push to get men and women who are abused by partners to seek help.

Assistant chief constable Garry Forsyth said: "Initiatives such as these help demonstrate that we haven't 'fudged the figures' as sceptics may claim. The reality is that despite unprecedented changes in policing at a local and national level, West Midlands Police is performing extremely well."

The most recent monthly figure was also 5.8 per cent down on December 2011's total. The force also launched its first crime-related online advent calendar last month, as well as a Letters of the Law initiative which provided people with a "behind the badge" glimpse of crime fighting.

ACC Forsyth paid tribute to his officers for their dedication. He added: "The reality is that our officers and staff have achieved this phenomenal result against a backdrop of unprecedented change in policing."

"These are genuinely encouraging results."

College holds open day

WALSALL College will be holding an open day for prospective students to gain information on courses and speak to tutors on Saturday.

The event from 10am to 2pm will be held at both the Wisemore and Green Lane campuses. Tutors will be on hand throughout the event to discuss the full range of qualifications, including full-time, part-time, professional, higher education and apprenticeships. The college's student services team will be available to offer advice.

Jat Sharma, principal and chief executive of Walsall College said: "The open day is an excellent opportunity to welcome members of the community to have a look around our state-of-the-art facilities."

For more information call (01922) 657053.

NEWS

Section of M6 Toll shut after collision

PART of the M6 Toll was closed for almost two hours following a collision between two cars. The road was shut at the T8 turn-off at Wedges Mills following the crash at around 7.30pm on Friday (January 11). It caused delays of more than 30 minutes.

Queues also formed on the A5 near the Gailey turn-off of the M6 at junction 12, after a lorry heading towards Cannock hit the central reservation, veering across the road before getting stuck in mud on the grass verge opposite.

The accident happened at 7.05am, causing hold-ups to motorists as the vehicle partially blocked the carriageway.

Mobile phone firm rings in the profits



Colin White, managing director of SellMyMobile.com is celebrating after a record-breaking 2012

A BURNWOOD-based mobile phone recycling firm is anticipating record sales in 2013 as users ditch their old devices for newer models.

SellMyMobile.com bought more than 500,000 handsets from its customers in 2012, up 10 per cent on the previous year, according to managing director Colin White.

In September alone, when the iPhone5 came out, the company did £5 million worth of trade in the UK and the US. It has seen growth in every month since.

Mr White said 2012 had been the company's most profitable year to date and expects 2013 to be "even better".

He said: "The business has been doing extremely well. We've been running for just over a couple of years now and we've seen strong growth in the UK and we recently set up in the US."

Sales of second-hand mobiles typically peak soon after Christmas, when many receive newer models as gifts. Bosses at the Cobbet Road firm are urging customers to get in quick for the best deals.

Firm takes action to cut bad smells

A RECYCLING firm which is the subject of legal action by 78 families, is making improvements to cut bad smells, according to the Environment Agency.

Neighbours of Hollybush Farm, near Cheslyn Hay, are pursuing compensation from Jack Moody Ltd, because of odours from the site which they claim left them unable to open their doors and windows, and even caused ill health.

It has now been revealed that the firm volunteered a plan of improvements to be made at the Warstone Road site including ensuring food waste is mixed in with garden waste when it is recycled. Changes are being enforced by the Environment Agency.

Sludge

A new site manager has also been appointed and concrete has been repaired in areas where sludge and con-

by Alex Homer

taminated water collects. Environment Agency spokesman Jessica Campbell said: "The company were asked to submit a site improvement plan of voluntary measures which would improve the odour issues."

The company has, meanwhile, applied to keep an extra two vehicles on site. Kate Moody, from the firm, said delivery times would not change.

Group hosts table top sale

BRIDGTOWN & District Local History Society is holding a table top sale this weekend. It takes place at Bethel Chapel, Union Street, at 2pm on Saturday, January 19. To book a table call Barry Cartwright on 01543 503937 or Tony Pearson on 01543 255235. Everyone is welcome, admission and parking is free and refreshments will be available.

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York	£18	£17	£15
Windsor Castle	£37	£36	£30
Steaming Into Somerset	£38	£38	£25
Minehead	£20	£9	£16
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Spalding Flower Festival	£26	£25	£17
Mid Wales & Barmouth	£18	£17	£15

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Pennyhill Primary School
Hollyhedge Road,
Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3DJ
6:00 - 7:30 pm (Slim & Aerobics)

TUESDAY
St Johns Church Centre, Church Road,
Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2LB
09:30 - 11:00 am (Slim & Aerobics)

Phasey Park Farm School
Wimperis Way, Phasey,
Nr Barr Beacon, Great Barr, B43 7LH
6:30 - 8:00 pm (Slim & Aerobics)

WEDNESDAY
Tanhouse Community Centre
Tanhouse Centre, Hamstead Road,
Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5EL
09:15 - 10:30 am (Slim & Fitness Pilates)

Grove Vale Junior School, Monksfield Avenue,
Off Newton Road, Great Barr, B43 6AL
6:30 - 8:00 pm (Slim & Aerobics)

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NEWS

New service is helping youngsters find work

YOUNG people in Walsall are being given a helping hand in to work by a new employment service.

Youth unemployment in Walsall remains high but The Learning Lab at Jervis Court, Dog Kennel Lane, hopes to help find more youngsters jobs.

The centre has spent a £2,000 European Social Fund grant on the latest software and a high speed wi-fi connection to provide youngsters with the best opportunities.

Stephen Sharman, transformation manager at Caldmore Accord Housing Association, said: "The number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance in Walsall stands at more than 10,000. To reduce this figure, it's vital that we offer the support and guidance that people need to get into work."

Opportunity

"The Learning LAB will do just that by offering job seekers the opportunity to get free, independent and regular advice to find work."

Visitors will be given expert advice on writing a CV, preparing for an interview and filling out application forms.

Weekly work clubs will be held at the Learning LAB on Tuesdays from 1.30pm-4.30pm (16-24 year olds) and Thursdays from 9.30am-12.30pm (single parents). For more information call (01922) 630364 or email JobsandSkills@accordgroup.org.uk

Aaron's drive wins car role



Aaron Green is seen being congratulated by ACF director Norman Beaumont on his new apprenticeship with the car finance firm

A STUDENT from Willenhall has received a jump start to his career by joining a national motor finance firm.

Aaron Green, 19, has secured a 12-month apprenticeship with ACF Car Finance in Willenhall, making him one of only five in the UK to get an apprenticeship role with the firm.

The former Pool Hayes Commu-

nity School information technology student will carry out workplace training ranging from vehicle supply to sales enquiries, presenting vehicles, conducting demonstration drives and handing over cars.

Aaron's hard work will gain him a VCQ/NVQ Level 2 qualification and the opportunity to work his way up within the business.

Pensioners' pride

SENIOR citizens in Pelsall will be putting their glad rags on for the village's annual Pelsall Pride Partnership seniors' party on Saturday, January 26, at Pelsall Community Centre. It is a chance to meet friends while enjoying a meal and entertainment by singers Keir Edwards and Michael Brooks.

Tickets are free but a £1 donation is appreciated, available for Pelsall area residents aged over 60 and can be collected from the community centre. Contact Garry Perry on (01922) 682140.

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Mary Hewitt centre pictured with colleagues in front of pile of Tizer crates



Mary, front right, Gwen Timmins (nee Wilkes) back right, Dora Tilley (nee Vincent) back left



Pearl Goode's mother, Mary Hewitt, who started work at Tizer in 1950



Mary Hewitt front left, and Gwen Timmins, front right, with two colleagues



Dora Tilley centre, and Pearl Goode's uncle, Jack Vincent, right, and a colleague



Workers inside the Tizer factory in Wednesbury

Fizzing fun for Tizer's one big happy family

IT could be a cold job, working at the Tizer factory in Wednesbury, recalls Pearl Goode.

"To stop the tops from flying off, you had to dip the bottles of Tizer into a bowl of warm water while you put the cap on," she recalls.

"In the cold weather we used to hold our hands down in the bottle for a bit to keep warm."

But while it might have got a bit parky in the winter, 70-year-old Pearl recalls it as one of the happiest times of her life.

"We were like on big happy family," she says.

Indeed family was very much the operative word for Pearl, who went to work at the plant around 1960.

Her mother, her sister, her cousin – around a dozen of her relatives worked at the factory in Friar Park Road, and she says there used to be a real bond.

"It was the same throughout,

by Mark Andrews

there were lots of families who all worked together," says Pearl, who operated the machines on the production lines.

"I think my mum Mary Wilkes started work there about 1950, and my cousin June Newell was also working there when I joined.

"My uncle Jack Vincent, he was a driver, then there was another cousin, Geoffrey Tilly."

Pearl recently discovered these photographs while searching through some family belongings. Thought to have been taken during the 1950s and 1960s, they show a happy, contented workforce.

"They went on a few coach trips, and they went to dances at the Stewponey Hotel, near Kinner, when they wanted a weekend away.

"There was a great mix of people, and we all got on well. There were youngsters like me, but there were also a lot of older people," says

Pearl, who lives in Freeman Road. She isn't in any of the photographs, but her mother, cousin and several other family members are.

Her son Rob Goode is hoping that other people will get in touch.

Tizer was founded in 1924 by Fred Pickup, of Manchester, and was originally known as Pickup's Appetizer.

As its popularity grew, the name was abbreviated to the snappier Tizer, and a number of plants began to spring up across the UK, including the one at Wednesbury.

In 1972 the company was taken over Scottish soft drinks giant A G Barr. Production ceased at Friar Park years ago, but there is still a sales operation on the site.

Pearl says while she loved her time at the plant, she could not imagine many of today's youngsters would want to work in such an environment.

"It was hard work, and the pay wasn't great, but we had fun."



Cheers – former worker Pearl Goode, aged 70, with her son Rob

star **extra** TRAVEL

CATS

in Manchester



Day excursion, Saturday 13 April 2013

Don't miss CATS, Andrew Lloyd-Webber's extraordinary record-breaking, smash-hit musical as it returns to Manchester.

Adapted from TS Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats', this wonderful blend of fantasy, drama and romance is set on the night that the Jellicle Cats meet for the Jellicle Ball in a sparkling fusion of music, dance and verse.

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By ELEANOR BERGSTEIN



in Manchester

Day excursion, Saturday 8 June 2013

An unprecedented live experience, exploding with heart-pounding music, passionate romance and sensationally sexy dancing.

Seen by millions across the globe this worldwide smash-hit tells the classic story of Baby and Johnny, two fiercely independent young spirits from different worlds, who come together in what will be the most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives. Featuring hit songs, including *Hungry Eyes*, *Hey Baby*, *Do You Love Me?* and the heart stopping *I've Had The Time of My Life*.

Don't miss your chance to see this truly spectacular musical theatre event.

You'll have the time of your life.

- A Grand Tier seat with a face value of £22.50 for the matinee performance of Dirty Dancing at the Palace Theatre, Manchester. Upgrade to Circle seats with a face value of £38.50 for a supplement of £20pp or stalls tickets face value £48.50 for a supplement of £30pp
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NEWS

Drunken 'Jekyll and Hyde' thug is jailed for attack

Pupils visit Grand panto



A DRUNKEN man who attacked a reveller on a night out in Walsall has been jailed for 12 months.

Matthew Johnson, of St Matthews Close, Walsall, had been out in the town when he saw victim Nicholas Mario waiting for a taxi home at about 3.30am.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Johnson, aged 26, then threatened Mr Mario and attacked him, kicking to his head and back as he lay on the ground.

Hospital

Miss Alka Brigue, prosecuting, said the victim suffered at least five blows which left him with grazes and cuts to his forehead and right ear. One cut to his head needed to be glued at hospital.

Johnson, who has previous convictions for assault and spitting at an officer, pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Mr Nigel Ford, defending, said he had acted for Johnson during many of his previous crimes and described him as a 'Jekyll and Hyde character'.

He added: "He has had a very difficult childhood, including living on the street, and he knows that's no excuse and he is now coming to a crossroads in his life and he needs to sort himself out."

Back to nature

PEOPLE in Darlaston and Moxley can learn skills to help more people enjoy wildlife.

The Darlaston Goes Green and Moorcroft Wood projects will see Salisbury Primary School, Kings Hill Primary School, the Friends of Moorcroft Wood and The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country join forces.

The Wildlife Trust will be delivering a series of training and wildlife events for the family from January 21.

Sessions will also be held in the two primary schools. Call 07975 540954 for details.

David Boraston and Norman Hogg from the Grand pantomime's orchestra with pupils from Bentley West Primary School

DEAF and blind youngsters from two schools were invited to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre for a special signed performance of panto Jack and the Beanstalk.

Pupils from Bentley West Primary School, in Walsall, and Wodensborough Technology

College, Wednesbury, were able to meet members of the show's orchestra beforehand to feel the vibrations from the instruments.

Bentley West teacher Jeni Turner said: "We have been coming to the panto for 11 years. The children absolutely love it."

star **extra** TRAVEL

Day excursion, Saturday 13 April 2013

From
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Set against the majesty of the Serengeti Plains and to the evocative rhythms of Africa, Disney's multi award-winning musical, The Lion King is coming to Manchester! A spectacular visual feast, this adaptation of Disney's much-loved film transports audiences to a dazzling world that explodes with glorious colours, stunning effects and enchanting music. At its heart is the powerful and moving story of Simba - the epic adventure of his journey from wide-eyed cub to his destined role as King of the Pridelands.

- A Grand Tier seat with a face value of £27.50 for a matinee performance of The Lion King at the Palace Theatre, Manchester
- Free time in Manchester
- Return coach travel from Dudley, Walsall & Wolverhampton

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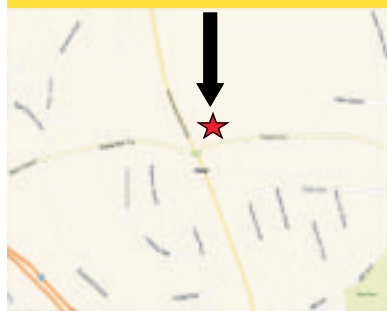
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What's On! Walsall

Stories sought to tell at care home

STORYTELLERS are invited to share tales with residents at two care homes in Walsall during National Storytelling Week.

The storytelling sessions are taking place at the Mali Jenkins Specialist Residential Home in The Crescent and at Parklands Court Nursing Home, in Park Road, Bloxwich, from January 26.

Siobhan Drane, of Bupa, said: "We are urging anyone who has a favourite fable, poem or even their very own story to share, to get in touch and help us make this the best storytelling week yet."

Paloma to sing in the forest in June

POP star Paloma Faith, who has a sold-out show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall next month, has announced she is returning to the region for a concert in the forest on Cannock Chase on June 28.

Tickets cost £32 (subject to booking fee) and go on sale at 9am tomorrow (Friday) from the Forestry Commission box office on 03000 680400 or online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music

Artist gives a talk

A NEW exhibition by an artist will be launched at Walsall New Art Gallery tomorrow (Friday).

Jochem Hendricks' "playful and provocative" show runs until April 7, and the artist will give a talk on March 16 at 2pm. To book a free place, call (01922) 654400.

Silly sausage Harry is back for sizzling show

HARRY Hill has not done a live stand-up tour for six years. Now the comedian is back on the road – and it has been well worth the wait.

In Sausage Time, the floppy-collared comic returns with a show that dazzles on every level.

For instance, it pledges to give us absolute proof that God exists, provides a section for Tongans, showcases the legendary Stouffer the Cat and offers a debut solo stand-up spot to Harry's son Gary, best known for his role as Alan Sugar in Harry Hill's TV Burp.

Slapstick

We are also promised performances by the show band, The Harrys, the whistler-of-chart-hits grandson Sam and an all-singing, all-dancing finale. Oh, and a giant sausage. One thing we should anticipate above all else is a wonderful sense of silliness.

"There's never a serious agenda to my comedy," said Harry. "I use a lot of slapstick and a lot of silly wordplay and puns."

"The show doesn't have an overall theme. It's just a load of silly stuff."

The comic has been doing warm-up shows and has relished the experience of per-

forming live again. "I've loved it," he said. "It gives you such a buzz. Hearing laughter is such an exciting feeling."

Harry added that, after the long-winded process of making TV shows, stand-up offers more freedom.

"Stand-up is so immediate. You can have an idea in the morning and get a laugh for it in the evening. No-one else can tell you what to do, apart from the audience. The audience is the ultimate arbiter."

The comedian, who has won multiple BAFTA and British Comedy Awards, said he had no regrets after quitting TV Burp after 11 years.

"At the end of that last show, all the production team were crying but I went back to my dressing room and felt like a weight had been lifted."

"The closest equivalent was when I gave up medicine."

Sausage Time is at the New Alexandra Theatre on February 26 and 27. Tickets are £31.



Harry Hill is returning to stand-up and, above, the TV Burp entertainer is seen with the legendary Stouffer the Cat

Musician played organ for the Pope

ORGANIST James Luxton will be performing the lunchtime recital at Walsall Town Hall today (Thursday) at 1pm, starting the 2013 season.

The musician, who has played the organ for Pope Benedict XVI, is sub-assistant organist of Worcester Cathedral and has worked with Walsall Choral Society.

He studied at Birmingham Conservatoire, achieving a first class honours degree, and has performed across Europe.

Tickets cost £2, available on the door for the hour-long recital.

Extra show from the Military Wives

THE Military Wives will perform an extra show at Lichfield's Garrick Theatre next month.

The group, made up of wives and girlfriends of British Military personnel, will be performing twice on February 10, due to popular demand.

Proceeds will go to The Military Wives Foundation and also to Help the Heroes and selected RAFA charities.

Tickets are £22.50.

Poetry at museum

A POETRY reading will be held at Walsall Leather Museum on February 15.

Performer Little Earthquake will present Cupid: Quivers of Passion at the Littleton Street venue at 7.30pm with a buffet. Tickets cost £16 and must be booked on (01922) 721153.

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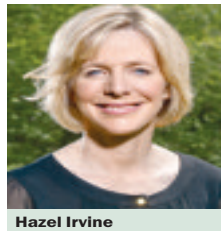
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 19.01.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

Live Snooker: The Masters BBC2, 4.30pm
Hazel Irvine presents the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed. Shaun Murphy prevailed over two-time champion John Higgins with a 6-4 victory in last year's concluding semi-final, earning him a chance to claim the title in a contest against Neil Robertson. However, it was the Thunder from Down Under who went on to win the prestigious trophy. This year's draw meant that Murphy and Robertson could have met in the last four once again.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News: Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News. Regional News: Weather. **5.30** Animal Antics. **6.00** **Richard Hammond's Secret Service.** The hidden-camera show features Bill Oddie destroying a woman's garden as he presents a new TV programme and the people of Oxford being subjected to a dodgy lie-detector test. **6.45** **Britain's Brightest.** Clare Balding hosts the game show, featuring a challenge in which two players are locked in identical rooms and have to solve the puzzles inside to blow the doors off. **8.00** **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. **8.50** **Casualty.** Jordan is desperate to keep Yvonne on life support even as her condition deteriorates – until another patient forces him to reconsider his decision. A man steals from the ED. **9.40** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care. (R) **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Including West Ham United v Queens Park Rangers. National Lottery Update. **11.50** **The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two. **1.05** Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Close. **6.30** **Film:** Flight from Freedom. (1943) Drama, starring Rosalind Russell. **8.10** **Film:** Sister Kenny. (1946) A nurse discovers a treatment for polio, but struggles to convince the medical establishment that it will work. Fact-based drama, starring Rosalind Russell and Alexander Knox. **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.30** Talking Pictures. **1.20** **Film:** The Moon Is Blue. (1953) Comedy, starring Maggie McNamara. **3.00** Coast. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The Masters. Concluding coverage of the first semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London. **5.30** Winterview. The Big Freeze, 1963. **6.30** **Dad's Army.** Capt Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a royal train passing through Walmington-on-Sea, but another locomotive confounds their plans. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The Masters.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed. **10.30** **Film:** Doubt. (2008) A disciplinarian nun at a Catholic school suspects a charismatic priest of behaving inappropriately with a student. Drama, with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams. **12.10** Snooker Extra. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the first Masters semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the first entrant for the final was decided over the best of 11 frames.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** My Tasty Travels with Lydia Bellingham. (R) **2.35** Dinner Date. (R) **3.35** River Monsters. (R) **4.05** **Film:** Garfield. (2004) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.00** **New You've Been Framed!** Top 100 Weddings. Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips. **7.00** **Splash!** Five more celebrities, including Linda Barker, Dom Joly, Anthony Ogogo and Tina Malone, learn how to dive with Tom Daley as they battle for two places in next week's semi-final. **8.30** **Take Me Out.** An accountant, a mixologist, a sales assistant and a historian enter the love lift in the hope of impressing 30 single women. **9.45** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Kimberley Walsh and Madness. **10.45** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.00** **Film:** The Game. (1997) Thriller, with Michael Douglas. **1.20** The Store. **2.50** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.30** Pushing Daisies. (R) **4.15** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Beach Volleyball. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Undercover Boss Australia. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.0** Ireland. **4.40** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.10** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.45** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **6.10** **Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland.** Comedian Joe Rooney annoys Celia Holman-Lee by printing the menu for his dinner in five languages, and as the evening draws to a close, the week's winner is revealed. **6.40** Channel 4 News. **7.10** 4thought.tv. **7.15** **Film:** The Simpsons Movie. (2007) Springfield faces destruction after pollution caused by Homer provokes the wrath of the US government. Animated comedy, with the voice of Dan Castellaneta. **9.00** **World Without End.** A plan to rebuild the bridge is hampered by the new Lord of Wileigh, while Queen Isabella carries out a crafty scheme to persuade the king to declare war on her enemies. **10.00** **Film:** Saving Private Ryan. (1998) Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, starring Tom Hanks. **1.15** **Film:** Exit Through the Gift Shop. (2010) **2.40** Hollywood. **4.50** Countdown. (R) **5.35** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.05** Celebrity Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.05** **Film:** Mister Roberts. (1955) **3.25** **Film:** Operation Crossbow. (1965) **5.45** **Film:** Operation Daybreak. (1975) **7.50** **5 News Weekend.** **7.55** **NCIS.** Gibbs revisits his home town to investigate an assault that left one marine dead and another badly injured – and enlists the help of his estranged father to identify the assailant. (R) **8.50** **NCIS.** A serial killer begins posting footage of his crimes online – and as the agents investigate, they realise that each film contains visual clues to the identity of the next victim. (R) **9.45** **Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another. **10.45** **Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side.** Emma Willis presents the CBB companion show, including celebrity guests' thoughts on the latest developments and behind-the-scenes insights. **11.45** **Comedy Kings: Best of Just for Laughs.** Stewart Lee, Craig Hill and Aziz Ansari perform in front of audiences at Montreal's renowned Just for Laughs festival. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Merlin **7.45** Doctor Who **8.40** Top Gear **9.45** **Film:** Con Air (1997) **11.30** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** A History of Art in Three Colours **9.00** Borgen **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1978 **11.30** Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978
ITV2
3.45 You've Been Framed! **5.45** **Film:** Babe (1995) **7.35** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) A scientist who turns into a monster when angry is hunted by a general who wants to use him as a weapon. Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton, Tim Roth and Liv Ullmann. Including FYI Daily. **9.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.30** Fake Reaction **11.15** **Film:** Gladiator (2000)
ITV3
2.50 A Touch of Frost **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis
ITV4
3.30 Live Africa Cup of Nations. South Africa v Cape Verde (Kick-off 4.00pm) **6.15** **Film:** The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **9.30** **Film:** Space Cowboys (2000)
E4
3.40 Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** **Film:** Because I Said So (2007) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.55** The Cleveland Show
Film4
3.10 One Million Years BC (1966) **5.10** MirrorMask (2005) **7.05** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **9.00** 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **10.55** The Keep (1983)

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JANUARY

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7.30pm (Except Wed 23rd 6.30pm & Sat 26th 2.30pm matinee)
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FEBRUARY

DEREK ACORAH
Sunday 24th • 7.30pm • £18.00

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A VISION OF ELVIS
Saturday 2nd • 7.30pm • £17.50

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Thursday 14th • 7.30pm • £12.50

THE BILLY FURY YEARS
30th Anniversary Special
Friday 29th • 7.30pm • £17.00

Justine Riddoch presents
TOTALLY TINA
Saturday 30th • 7.30pm • £16.00

APRIL

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Saturday 6th • 2.00pm
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Sunday 7th • 7.30pm
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Saturday 20th • 7.30pm • £14.00, Conc £12.00
Into the Shadows recreate the unique sounds of The Shadows, who had 5 number one hits and 16 top ten hits, and were in the UK Charts for a total of 310 weeks. No other instrumental group has ever achieved such success.

PATSY CLINE
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Featuring the stars of the West End Production 'Patsy', the fabulously talented Sandy Kelly 'Ireland's queen of country music' and George Hamilton IV one of the true greats of country music and one of Patsy's closest friends whose many hits include 'Abilene', 'Early Morning Rain' and 'She's a Little Bit Country'.

APRIL

DISCO NIGHT
Friday 26th • 7.30pm • £16.00
The show is fronted by Paul Marazzi, Brit winner and performer on six top ten singles and two number 1's with boy band A1.

John Hylton presents
REAL DIAMOND
Saturday 27th • 7.30pm • £17.00

MAY

GAGA
Friday 3rd • 7.30pm • £16.00

Cat Edwards presents
KYLIE M
Saturday 4th • 8.00pm • £16.00
Europe's No1 Kylie Minogue Tribute Production Show is heading to The Prince Of Wales.

An Evening with Stars from
STRICTLY COME DANCING
STARRING PASHA KOVALEV & KATYA VIRSHILAS
Saturday 11th • 7.30pm • £20.00

DARKSIDE
THE PINK FLOYD SHOW
Saturday 25th • 8.00pm • £14.50

JUNE

C'MON EVERYBODY
Friday 7th • 7.30pm • £14.00, Conc £12.00

MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS - HOW SWEET IT IS
Saturday 8th • 7.30pm • £20.00
The UK's Number 1 Motown production is guaranteed to have you dancing 'All Night Long'.

LET'S HANG ON

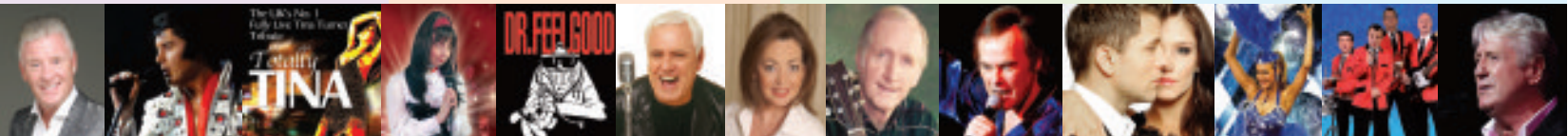
Saturday 15th • 7.30pm • £17.00
In this remarkable production Let's Hang On takes you on a musical journey through the prolific career of one of the most successful bands of all time "Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons".

GIMME! GIMME! GIMME!
NIGHT FEVER

Saturday 29th • 7.30pm • £16.00
The Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! Night Fever show presents a tribute show featuring the very best of... ABBA and The Bee Gees performed by two of the world's top tribute bands 'Bootleg ABBA' and 'Bee Gees Fever'.

JULY

JOE LONGTHORNE
Friday 5th • 7.30pm • £22.00



What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 20.01.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Tony Robinson

Time Team
Channel 4, 5.25pm
After almost 20 years on the box, Tony Robinson's hit archaeology show will soon be history itself, but first there's a chance to enjoy this dip into the past with Hektor Rous, the son of "Aussie Earl" Keith Rous. He is keen to piece together the mysterious history of the family's Tudor country home in Suffolk. There's no shortage of intriguing stories buried in its past, such as the tale of a drunken butler who supposedly set fire to Henham Hall's wine cellar in 1773, sending the place up in flames. Can Tony and the team piece together the family home's history.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Bargain Hunt. **2.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.20** Chatsworth. (R) **4.20** Lifestyle. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Africa. (R) **6.05** **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.
6.30 **Blandings**. Connie hires a personal secretary (David Walliams) to get the house in order for a visit from the Schoonmakers – but Freddie ruins the occasion with his latest money-making scheme.
7.00 **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury head to Exmoor, learning about Georgian photographer Alfred Vowles and the origins of the 1869 novel Lorna Doone.
8.00 **Call the Midwife**. New series. The return of the drama sees Jenny concerned about a mum-to-be involved in an abusive marriage, while Trixie and Sister Evangelina deliver a baby on board a cargo ship.
9.00 **Ripper Street**. The clearing of a slum for a new railway reveals a gruesome murder, leading the team to a web of conspiracy involving a local councillor, an asylum doctor and Long Susan.
10.00 **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.
10.25 **Match of the Day 2**. Including Chelsea v Arsenal.
11.25 **Room 101 – Extra Storage**. With Greg Davies, Ben Fogle and Janet Street-Porter.
12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.30** Weather. **1.35** News.

BBC2

6.00 Close. **6.55** Film: None But the Lonely Heart. (1944) Drama, starring Cary Grant. **8.45** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **9.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **1.55** Live Snooker: The Masters. Coverage of the opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace, London. **4.45** Ski Sunday. **5.30** Flog It!
6.30 **Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journey**. The planet's yearly trip around the sun and the effects it has on its inhabitants, beginning by covering the period from July to the winter solstice in December. (R)
7.30 **Fawcett Towers**. A party of German guests comes to stay and Basil resolves to ensure everyone is on their best behaviour. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 **Live Snooker: The Masters**. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where a maximum of 11 frames will be played to decide this year's champion.
11.00 **Film: There Will Be Blood**. (2007) A prospector's single-minded pursuit of wealth leads him into conflict with a priest over control of an oil-rich town. Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.
1.30 Sign Zone: Holby City. Jac jeopardises her relationship with Jonny. Serena finds her position threatened by a competitor, and Chrissie has a health scare but is reluctant to confide in Sacha. (R) **2.30** Who Do You Think You Are? Singer Annie Lennox researches her ancestry. (R) **3.30** Close.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.30** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **11.30** May the Best House Win Vive la France. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Countrywide. **12.55** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **1.55** Rosemary & Thyme. (R) **2.55** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.55** Film: Nanny McPhee. (2005) **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather.
6.00 **ITV News**: Weather.
6.15 **Dancing on Ice**. The 10 remaining stars go head to head in duels, with the judges deciding which of the couples is safe and who will require public votes to help them avoid the skate-off.
7.45 **All Star Family Fortunes**. With Paralympic champion Jonnie Peacock and Loose Women's Sherrie Hewson.
8.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off**. The two lowest-scoring couples compete.
9.00 **Mr Selfridge**. Harry leaves some of his staff a little shocked when he decides to set up a beauty counter near the front entrance, while Victor has a rival for Agnes's affections.
10.00 **ITV News at Ten**; Weather.
10.15 **Film: The Bourne Ultimatum**. (2007) Thriller, starring Matt Damon.
12.15 The Store. **2.20** Monk. (R) **3.30** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Will & Grace. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** Film: Speed 2: Cruise Control. (1997) **4.25** Deal or No Deal. **5.25** Time Team.
6.25 **Channel 4 News**.
6.55 **4thought..tv**. Members of the public reflect on religious issues.
7.00 **Come Dine with Me**. Fitness fanatic Lindsey Berry, salesman Marc McAdam, hairdresser Julie Wall and Michael Webster, former butler to the Queen, take up the dinner party challenge in the Lake District.
8.00 **The Hotel**. The staff encounter several problems as they prepare for Ladies' Night, and one of the bedrooms receives a last-minute makeover as the inspector returns to assess the Grosvenor.
9.00 **Film: It's Complicated**. (2009) Premiere. A divorced couple are reunited at their son's college graduation, and begin a clandestine affair. Romantic comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.
11.20 **Rude Tube: Welcome to 2013**. Alex Zane presents 100 memorable internet clips. (R)
1.10 **Film: Buffy the Vampire Slayer**. (1992) **2.40** Smallville. (R) **3.20** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.10** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.05** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R) **5.55** Sali Mali. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.15** Film: Loch Ness. (1996) **2.10** Film: Muppets from Space. (1999) **4.00** Film: Teen Wolf. (1985) **5.50** Film: Pearl Harbor. (2001)
8.55 **5 News Weekend**.
9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother**. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.
10.00 **Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side**. Emma Willis and her guests discuss how the housemates are getting on.
11.00 **Film: The House Bunny**. (2008) Comedy, starring Anna Faris, Colin Hanks, Emma Stone and Kat Dennings.
1.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.30** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Craze
7.05 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.50** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) **10.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Magnificent Machines: The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **8.00** Film: In Which We Serve (1942) **9.50** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy **10.50** Film: Lebanon (2009)
ITV2
5.30 Take Me Out **5.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **5.45** Film: Back to the Future (1985) **8.00** You've Been Framed! **9.00** The Magulal Weekend **10.00** Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008)
ITV3
3.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.35** Murder, She Wrote **6.40** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Film: Dangerous Liaisons (1988)
ITV4
2.30 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) **5.30** Live Africa Cup of Nations. **6.30** Police, Camera, Action! **9.00** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **11.00** Film: Green Street (2005)
E4
5.00 Revenge **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** New Girl **8.00** Film: Iron Man (2008) **10.25** The New Normal **10.55** 2 Broke Girls **11.20** My Mad Fat Diary
Film4
3.00 Carry On Cabby (1963) **4.50** Aquamarine (2006) **6.55** Monster-in-Law (2005) **9.00** Road to Perdition (2002) Depression-era gangster drama, starring Tom Hanks. **11.20** Lolita (1997)

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PRISCILLA
QUEEN OF THE DESERT
in Manchester

From £64.95pp

Day Excursion, Saturday 23 February 2013

Direct from the West End and starring Jason Donovan, the feel-good international hit sensation Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical is coming to Manchester for two weeks only! Winner of 4 WhatsOnStage.com awards, including Best New Musical, and based on the smash-hit movie, Priscilla is the heartwarming, uplifting adventure of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus searching for love and friendship and end up finding more than they had ever dreamed of. Jason Donovan stars as Tick, the role he originated in the West End.

With a dazzling array of outrageous Olivier and Tony award-winning costumes and a hit parade of dancefloor favourites including It's Raining Men, I Will Survive, Hot Stuff, Finally, Boogie Wonderland, Go West, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, and I Love The Nightlife, this wildly fresh and funny musical is a journey to the heart of fabulous!

- A Stalls seat with a face value of £32 for the matinee performance of Priscilla at the Opera House Theatre, Manchester (An upgrade to a ticket with a face value of £37.50 is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement of £6 per person)
- Free time in Manchester
- Return coach travel from Dudley, Walsall & Wolverhampton

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Please note: Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of any celebrity and no refunds will be given in this event.

star extra TRAVEL

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

Wednesday, June 19
Etihad Stadium, Manchester
Day excursion from £99.95

After three spectacular sell-out shows at London's O2 Arena in November, Robbie Williams is to perform at Manchester's Etihad Stadium next June.

One of the world's most successful recording artists, with a record 17 Brit Awards, 10 UK number one albums and seven UK number one singles including Angels and Millennium, the Take That star is expected to perform tracks from his recent album Take the Crown, which went straight in at number one along with its lead single Candy, the fast-selling male artist single of 2012.

Book with Omega for a chance to see two of the UK's biggest stars on the same bill in one of the highlight shows of 2013. Olly Murs is special guest. Let them entertain you!

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Gun Fury, Channel 4, 1pm

A wealthy rancher and his fiancée take the stagecoach to California, where they intend to start a new life in the wake of the Civil War. However, during the journey an ex-Confederate outlaw and his gang of thugs attack the coach and kidnap the bride-to-be. Distraught and wounded, the rancher sets out to rescue her and punish her abductors. Western, with Rock Hudson, Donna Reed, Lee Marvin and Phil Carey. (1953)

TUESDAY

Greenfingers, BBC1, 11.30pm

Inmates at an open prison discover a passion for gardening and create a patch that attracts the attention of a haughty celebrity horticulturalist, who encourages them to compete in a prestigious competition at Hampton Court. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Helen Mirren, Clive Owen, David Kelly, Warren Clarke and Natasha Little. (2000)

WEDNESDAY

Alien Hunter, Channel 5, 11.30pm

A communications expert heads for an isolated research station in the Antarctic, where strange radio signals have been detected coming from an object in the ice. The scientists succeed in breaking the artefact open, unleashing a strange alien creature and a flesh-eating virus that endangers all life on Earth. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Spader, Janine Eser and John Lynch. (2003)



Greenfingers, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.30pm

THURSDAY

Presumed Innocent, BBC1, 12.20am

A deputy prosecutor is drawn into an affair with a seductive colleague, but she drops him when he fails to live up to her ambitions. However, when she is found dead, he is investigated under suspicion of raping and murdering her – and as a wealth of evidence piles up, he struggles to clear his name. Mystery thriller, starring Harrison Ford, Greta Scacchi, Brian Dennehy, Bonnie Bedelia and Raul Julia. (1990)

FRIDAY

Coogan's Bluff, ITV, 10.35pm

An Arizona sheriff is sent to New York to bring an imprisoned murderer back to stand trial. However, when the killer escapes, the southern lawman employs Wild West methods to recapture him, antagonising the city's police in the process. Don Siegel's crime drama, starring Clint Eastwood, Lee J Cobb, Don Stroud and Susan Clark. (1968)

Pick of the Week

Stars shine bright in a night of celebration

We love the Oscars, Golden Globes and Emmys – the Baftas aren't half-bad either.

But our favourite film or TV-related gong-giving ceremony of all has to be The National Television Awards.

Why? The answer to that is simple: because every award is voted for by the people who really count – those of us who tune in at home.

Forget the critics or the contributors' fellow cast and crew members, it's the folk who watch the shows whose opinions count the most, because without them, there would be no programmes to start off with.

So if your favourite doesn't bag a trophy on the night, you only have yourself to blame for not backing them.

The people receiving them also rate the ceremony highly, as executive producer Kim Turberville of Indigo Television, who make the National Television Awards for ITV, says:

"Viewers are the bedrock of our show because all the winners are chosen by the public. So I hope they will respond to our call to action again

this year in this quest to discover the nation's favourite stars and shows.

"The NTA trophy is the award that says people love what you do. That's why it means so much to win one."

This year, the NTAs themselves have something to celebrate, having come of age. Yes, this will be the 18th time the ceremony has taken place, and as a result, it promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

It's certainly going to be very exciting indeed, with many of the categories just too close to call.

Making its debut in the Factual Entertainment slot is The Great British Bake-Off, and you wouldn't bet against it bagging a prize.

Arguably the most intriguing battle comes in Drama, where writer Steven Moffat's two productions, Doctor Who and Sherlock, go head-to-head; their stars, Matt Smith and Benedict Cumberbatch, are also vying for the Drama Performance: Male gong.

However, both shows could miss out if the mighty Downton Abbey retains its crown, or if fans of Merlin, in their sorrow of it finally drawing to a

close at Christmas, decide to give it the ultimate farewell – one of those nice, shiny awards.

The Drama Performance: Female nominees are an intriguing bunch too. The smart money is on Sheridan Smith for her outstanding performance as a Great Train Robber's wife in Mrs Biggs, but Miranda Hart could surprise everyone – after all, she's been rather impressive in Call The Midwife.

Other awards being given on the night will be for Comedy Panel Show, Talk Show, Factual Programme, Situation Comedy, Serial Drama, Serial Drama Performance, Reality Programme, Newcomer, Entertainment Programme and Entertainment Presenter.

Dermot O'Leary hosts the ceremony from the O2 Arena in London, and watch out for his show-stopping entrance, which apparently features a very special dance partner indeed.

We're not revealing the identity of who (or what) that will be – but if you think really hard, we bet you can guess...



The National Television Awards 2013, Wednesday, ITV, 7.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Wild Things

Channel 4, 8.30pm

Does garden designer Chris Myers have the best job in the world? Actually no, that claim well and truly went the 'caretaker' of the Great Barrier Reef a couple of years ago. However, Chris's comes a close second – he spends his time in the fresh air, among the birds, bees, and flowers – what's not to love? Chris, who's a Royal Horticultural Society gold medalist and garden designer, is joined by one of our top botanists, Dr Trevor Dines, lichenologist Sally Eaton, and his trusty Labrador Lottie. First up, the teams head to Birmingham and they start looking for wild things amid the heart of its road transport network. Why? Because in the last 50 years, these roadsides have become Britain's latest nature reserve.

TUESDAY

Great Houses with Julian Fellowes

ITV, 9pm

Think of actor-turned-screenwriter Julian Fellowes and what springs to mind? Probably the productions he's created, in particular Downton Abbey and Gosford Park. If you've seen them, you'll probably have noticed that at the centre of both is a very posh house indeed, and Fellowes has created compelling characters who inhabit them. But now he's turning his attention to the real people who live in these places. This two-part documentary sees the Oscar-winning writer visit Goodwood House in West Sussex and Cambridgeshire's Burghley House to unearth their remarkable histories. "These are not just houses for

posh people to live in," says Julian, "their history belongs to all of us."

Death in Paradise

BBC1, 9pm

Like Midsomer Murders, the format for this winning comedy drama is simple enough: a series of nefarious crimes are committed in an idyllic setting, and we at home have to guess who did it before buttoned-up English DI Richard Poole (Miller). When the body of Valerie Dupree is discovered floating in the pool of a luxury cosmetic clinic by swimmer Jayne Smythe (Cherie Lunghi), several things point to suicide. However, Poole believes Ms Dupree was murdered. The whole thing is handled with a likeable lightness of touch, and Miller proves as engaging as those glorious Gadeloupe backdrops. Series regulars Don Warrington and Sara Martins star alongside James Fleet and Emma Pierson.

WEDNESDAY

Charley Boorman's South African Adventure

Channel 5, 8pm

Join the eponymous adventurer on the ride of a lifetime as he journeys through South Africa on his trusty BMW motorbike. In search of thrills and excitement, this week Charley samples South African life from three differing perspectives – in the air, deep below ground and in the bush. He takes to the skies as he learns how to para-jet and then

even tries his hand at gold mining underground; detonating the dynamite himself in search of the precious metal. He then heads into the bush getting up close and personal to Africa's greatest wild animals also enjoying some traditional dinners around the campfire. Follow his footsteps as Africa plays host to his most daring adventure yet.

THURSDAY

Silent Witness

BBC1, 9pm

Given the generic first 30 seconds of this week's episode, you might feel the urge to switch over, but if you like slick post-watershed dramas stick with it, because the tale of a prostitute's run-in with a mysterious pimp-bashing copper proves to be disturbingly compelling. Following the opening credits, the forensic team are called in when Joanne Henderson, a pub landlady is stabbed to death and has her little finger cut off. Although Leo and Jack collect mounting evidence that her husband was responsible, Nikki believes the man is innocent. After he is charged with the crime, she faces a race against the clock to convince her colleagues the woman was the latest victim of a serial killer.



Death in Paradise, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

FRIDAY

Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final

Channel 5, 9pm

Claire Richards, Frankie Dettori and Gillian Telford are among those who have been basking in the camera's spotlight, while The Hills' Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt; models Lacey Banghard and Paula Hamilton; Neil Razaor' Ruddock; The X Factor's beloved loser Ryan Clark, and Sam Robertson (from E4 comedy Beaver Falls) have also enjoyed time in the famous abode. Millions of Neighbours fans rooted for Ryan Maloney, while Heartbeat and The Royal veteran Tricia Penrose also has a solid fanbase, but by now you'll know who's made it through to this stage and who will be licking their wounds. Expect host Brian Dowling to grill the winner in what promises to be a glitzy finale.

The Last Leg

Channel 4, 9.30pm

This show first won plaudits during the Paralympic Games, when its host, Adam Hills, and his colleagues Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker, offered an intelligent and alternative commentary on the day's events. A non-sporting version of the show was hinted at back in October when Syeda Irtizaali, Channel 4's entertainment commissioning editor, said: "We are working on a number of great ideas that will help push the show forward from its Paralympic origins into a broad, intelligent and entertaining series. I'm hugely looking forward to working again with Adam, Alex and Josh." Clearly they've found a format that works, because the trio will be fronting it for the next eight weeks – and we can't wait to see how it turns out.

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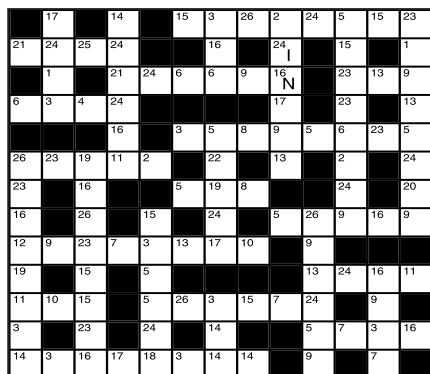
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.204

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

O	E	P	F	L	Q	G	X	V	D	B	C	U
N	I	T	K	M	R	Z	S	A	H	W	Y	J

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QUICK CROSSWORDS
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WORD PUZZLER
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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Take one's leave of French region (6)
4. Just the implement for one who intends to have a row! (6)
- 9 and 13 Dn. When a man is doing this, the charge is not to be sneezed at! (6,7,3,4)
10. Such a man would like to feel the draught! (7)
11. Less industrious layabout (5)
12. In the bag a ten-dollar stone (5)
14. Strange steps taken to get vermin (5)
18. Without any company making an advance, we hear (5)
19. A little hut and French piece of furniture (7)
21. It ensures that the eldest will succeed (13)
22. There is a change about one word that indicates an alternative (6)
23. They cut parts of the propeller (6)

Down

1. Posted to army bases, maybe (6)
2. An expert at reading the dials! (13)
3. Used by those who take steps to raise their position (5)
5. Publicise the route needed for a flying concern (7)
6. Being able to speak two languages is deceitful (6-7)
7. Provide some earnest counsel, tho' Rex must be wrong (6)
8. Checks parts of the rigging (5)
13. See 9 Across
15. Take a piece of balsam, please - just a taste (6)
16. Wind a kind of thread (5)
17. Emphasise what worried people experience (6)
20. Right inside the beak one can see a fish (5)

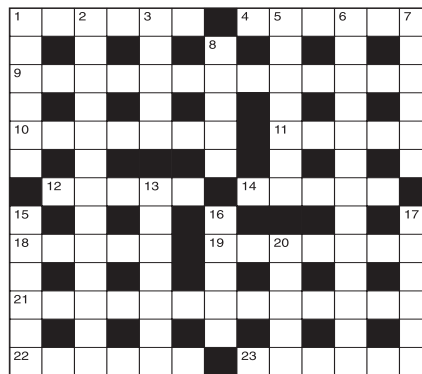
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Meal (6)
4. Peril (6)
9. Distance round (13)
10. Go before (7)
11. Tend (5)
12. Decree (5)
14. Did business (5)
18. Happen (5)
19. Swiss lake (7)
21. Receptacle for dosiers (6,7)
22. Straight (6)
23. Call to help (6)

Down

1. Formula (6)
2. Upright (13)
3. Relish (5)
5. Dispose (7)
6. Spanish dictator (7,6)
7. Staggered (6)
8. Bid (5)
13. Lasting a long time (7)
15. Took off (6)
16. Lax (5)
17. Kindly (6)
20. Hut (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Out of spirits; 7 Canon; 8 Canto; 9 Bud; 10 Simpleton; 11 Lariat; 12 Timbre; 15 Narrating; 17 Lea; 18 Etude; 19 Imply; 21 Reassertions. Down: 1 Overbalances; 2 Fan; 3 Panama; 4 Recalling; 5 Tenet; 6 Countenances; 7 Cedar; 10 Seafarer; 13 Billy; 14 Finite; 16 Rouse; 20 Pat. QUICK - Across: 1 Invertebrate; 7 Might; 8 Query; 9 Pit; 10 Architect; 11 Refuse; 12 Filter; 15 Effective; 17 Ato; 18 China; 19 Pilot; 21 Intelligibly. Down: 1 Inexperience; 2 Rig; 3 Entice; 4 Requisite; 5 There; 6 Mysteriously; 7 Motif; 10 Associate; 13 Trait; 14 Dispel; 16 Feign; 20 Lag.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

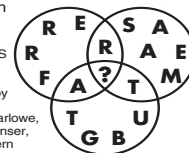
6	1	4	2	5	9	3	7	8
2	5	3	7	9	8	4	1	6
7	9	3	1	4	6	2	5	8
1	7	8	5	4	3	9	2	6
9	8	7	3	2	4	1	6	5
4	3	2	6	1	5	7	8	9
3	6	9	5	8	7	1	2	4
5	4	7	2	1	3	6	8	9
2	8	1	4	9	6	7	5	3

	4				6			
		8	9		3	7		5
1				5			9	
	1					6	9	
3			7		6			2
4	8						7	
		4		6				7
5	1	3			7	9		4
		3			5		8	

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is E. Marlowe, Webster, Spenser, all early modern playwrights.



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WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES
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You want to buy a second-hand car.

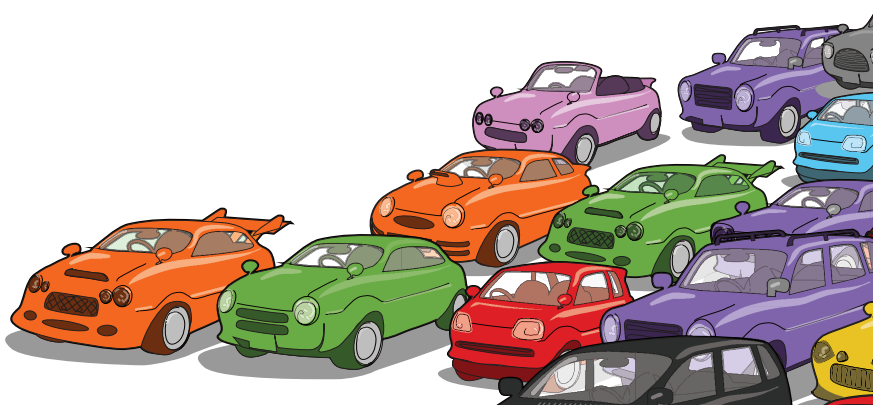
Just something that's fuel-efficient. But it needs a bit of **power** – your neighbourhood's quite **nilly** and your groceries can be so heavy. And it's nice to have an engine that **roars**.

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An artist's impression of the three-storey 'Malvern' at Taylor Wimpey's Cedar Drive development

Great value homes in the January sale

BARGAIN-HUNTING homebuyers can bag an unmissable deal this New Year – if they hurry along to the Taylor Wimpey January Sale at selected developments in the West Midlands.

A limited number of plots at two Taylor Wimpey developments – Saddlers Brook in Rushall, Walsall, and Cedar Drive in Oldbury – have been reduced by up to £15,000.

First-time buyers can take advantage of Taylor Wimpey's easystart shared equity initiative with selected new homes at the leading housebuilder's Primrose Gardens development in Dudley.

The Taylor Wimpey January Sale is on at the following developments in the West Midlands:

Saddlers Brook – Cartbridge Lane South, Rushall. Open Thursday to Monday, 10am to 5pm – 0845 672 4132

Plot 34 – 4-bedroom 'Florence' detached house plus landscaped rear garden WAS £244,995, NOW £229,995 – SAVE £15,000

Plot 55 – 3-bedroom 'Brecon' terraced house WAS £171,995, NOW £169,995 – SAVE £2,000

Cedar Drive – Rood End Road, Oldbury. Open daily, 10am to 5pm – 0845 071 8723

Plot 56 – 4-bedroom 'Malvern'

townhouse WAS £168,995, NOW £159,995 – SAVE £9,000

Plot 97 – 3-bedroom 'Kingsford' terraced house WAS £149,995, NOW £145,000 – SAVE £4,995

First-time buyer incentives available at Taylor Wimpey developments in the West Midlands include easystart shared equity, through which eligible homebuyers can purchase selected homes for 85 per cent of their full price, including a five per cent deposit, subject to status.

Further details are available by contacting the Sales Executive.

Primrose Gardens – Northfield Road, Netherton, Dudley

Open Thursday to Monday,

10am to 5pm – 0845 026 4012

Plot 5 – 1-bedroom 'Berrington' coach house

Full price £84,995 – 85 per cent easystart price £72,246

Plot 8 – 2-bedroom 'Woburn' terraced house

Full price £126,995 – 85 per cent easystart price £107,946

To find out more about the full range of Taylor Wimpey developments across the West Midlands region, property-seekers can call 0121 703 3400 or visit website www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/westmids

K.Stuart Swash

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March 2013

Entries to date include:

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Houses for Improvement & Land

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- ✓ Late night opening this Thursday

Late night opening Thursday 17th January.

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Please note that all offices will be closed
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WE RE-OPEN

Wednesday 2nd January 2013 9.00 am
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Street
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Darlaston
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Darlaston
WS10 8DE

Willenhall
22 New Road
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WV13 2BG

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Agent wins gold at awards night

PAUL Dubberley
estate agents was
awarded **GOLD** as
Best Midlands Small
Estate Agency at The
2012 Estate Agency
of the Year Awards in
association with The
Sunday Times and
The Times and sponsored
by Zoopla
Property Group.

On Thursday, December
6, approximately 600
leading estate agents and
conveyancing lawyers
descended upon The Lancaster
Hotel opposite Hyde Park for The
Estate Agency of the Year
Awards ceremony. The
winners received their
awards from celebrity guest,
Rebecca Adlington.

In fact it is a double celebration
as the firm has passed a milestone anniversary
- its 20th.

The honour follows continued
expansion by Paul Dubberley & Co - earlier
this year it opened its sixth
branch at Walsall in addition to
offices in Wednesbury,
Tipton, West Bromwich,
Willenhall and Bilston.

The awards ceremony was
the culminating event of a
rigorous and thorough

judging process carried out
by a panel of industry
experts who assessed initial
entry submissions before
conducting an extensive
review of the entrants which
included hundreds of telephone
interviews and mystery shopping
exercises.

The whole judging process
was overseen by The Property
Ombudsman; Christopher
Hammer.

Competitive

The awards have become
increasingly competitive
with the standard of entries
rising ever higher than ever
before.

Now in its 10th year, these
awards are firmly established
as the most sought-after and
difficult to win in estate
agency.

More than 5,000 offices
were represented this year,
but only the very best of the
best were crowned as
winners.

Paul Dubberley, winners
of the Best Midlands Small
Estate Agency were
delighted to receive the
award. Managing partner
Lee Morton commented "We
are absolutely thrilled especially
as these awards are widely
regarded as the ultimate
industry accolade."

"To be recognised by your
peers is indeed an honour.



Managing partner Lee Morton and colleague Matt Pickering (middle right) receiving the award from Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington and Nikki Cole from event sponsor, Zoopla Property Group

And to come on our 20th
anniversary is the icing on
the cake.

"Our aim has always been
to provide a quality service
to the Black Country and to
be recognised for our efforts
is a boost for all the team."

"This is the stamp of
approval which confirms to
owners and potential
purchasers that this is the place
to come to for residential
property."

The judges noted: "The
team at Paul Dubberley

deliver a quality and innovative
service to their clients
and have built an enviable
reputation."

Encourage

Peter Knight, chairman of
the event organisers Estate
Agency Events commented:
"When we set up the awards
10 years ago our goal was to
encourage, identify, highlight,
reward and promote
best practice in Estate
Agency - a decade on we now
have a competition that is

without question the most
sought after prize in the
industry as well as being the
longest established."

Each year the quality and
quantity of entries considerably
increases and the winners
can be very proud in the
knowledge that they have
beaten some seriously
good competitors."

The main awards were
sponsored by Zoopla Property
Group the UK's most
comprehensive property
website.

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- Three bed detached • C/H & D/G
- Hall • Lounge with Dining Area
- Kitchen • Utility • Bathroom
- Driveway • Garage • Garden

Offers around £229,950

GREENSIDE WAY, DELVES



NEW NEW NEW NEW

- Four bed semi • CH & DG • Hall
- W.C. • Two Receptions • Kitchen
- Utility • Bathroom • Shower room
- Driveway • Garage • Garden

Offers around £209,950

FRIEZLAND LANE, BROWNHILLS



NEW NEW NEW NEW

- Three bed detached • CH & DG
- Porch • Hall • Lounge • Dining
- Kitchen • Bathroom • Driveway
- Garage • Garden

Offers around £139,950

Waterfront Way, Town Centre



NEW NEW NEW NEW

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- elec CH & DG • Hall • Lounge
- Kitchen • Bathroom
- Parking space

Offers around £94,950

Archer Road, Leamore



NEW NEW NEW NEW

- Three bed • C/H & D/G
- Hall • Lounge • Dining Room
- Kitchen • Outhouse/ Utility
- modern Bathroom

Offers around £89,950

DORA STREET, PLECK



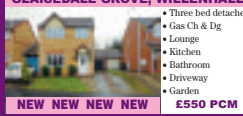
REDUCED REDUCED REDUCED

- Three Bed mid-terrace • C/H & D/G
- Two receptions Rooms
- downstairs Bathroom
- Kitchen • Yard & Rear garden

Offers around £84,950

NAEA

GLAISDALE GROVE, WILLENHALL



NEW NEW NEW NEW

- Three bed detached
- Gas Ch & Dg
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Garden

£550 PCM

ESTATE AGENTS & PROPERTY LETTINGS

FIELD ROAD, BLOXWICH



NEW NEW NEW NEW

- Three bed semi
- Gas Ch & Dg
- Lounge
- New Kitchen
- New Bathroom
- Driveway
- Suit professional

£500 PCM

CALEDON STREET, PLECK



NEW NEW NEW NEW

- Three bed semi
- gas Ch & Dg
- Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Garden

£450 PCM

WATERFRONT WAY, TOWN CENTRE

- Two bed
- Top Floor
- Elec CH & DG
- Lounge
- Kitchen Area
- Bathroom
- Suit professional

£495 PCM

FORDBROOK COURT, TOWN CENTRE

- One bed Flat
- Town Centre
- First Floor
- Lounge Area
- Kitchen Area
- Bathroom

£395 PCM

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Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA

LOT 1 Flat 2, 131 Glascote Road, Tamworth

Viewings: 18th & 25th January at 11.30am



GUIDE PRICE £35,000- £45,000

Situated close to Tamworth town centre this first floor flat has gas central heating and double glazing and would make an ideal investor purchase. Briefly comprising: Communal Entrance, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom & Utility Area. Energy Rating G

LOT 2 7 Junction Road, Stourbridge

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers.



Recently renovated detached family home situated in a sought after residential area with gas fired central heating and double glazing, the property comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Guest Cloakroom, Extended Full Width Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Street Parking, Fore and Attractive Rear Gardens. Energy Rating D.

GUIDE PRICE £125,000- £135,000

LOT 3 56 Tunnell Street, Bilston

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



GUIDE PRICE £110,000-£130,000

A detached family residence ideal for an investor benefitting gas central heating and double glazing comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Extended Dining Room, Kitchen, W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Detached Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens. Viewing by appointment. Energy Rating D.

LOT 4 91 Kenyon Forge, Birmingham

Viewing: 18th & 25th January at 11.00am



GUIDE PRICE £60,000- £70,000

Top floor one bedroom apartment located in a new development situated in the Jewellery Quarter. Walking distance to St Paul's Square, Snow Hill Station and tram stop. Comprises hallway, open plan kitchen / lounge / dining area, bedroom and bathroom. Early viewing is recommended on this courtyard facing apartment. Energy Rating C.

Our 2012 Auctions have seen us sell 81 Lots for nearly £7 Million with a success rate of over 97%

LOT 5 4 Relay House, Wednesbury

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



GUIDE PRICE £130,000- £150,000

A prestigious two storey office building, situated on an ideal and convenient corner plot, located at the junction with Upper High Street. Wednesbury is located 6 miles North east of Birmingham City centre and benefits from good road links via the M6 The property lends itself to various redevelopment opportunities, the Ground Floor retail sales suite has A3 Planning Consent (DC/1254868) whilst the First Floor Office Suites having Residential Planning Consent (DC/12/54868) for conversion to 6 Apartments with the addition of a third floor provides a further 4 apartments. Energy Rating G.

LOT 6 38 Norman Road, Northfield

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



GUIDE PRICE £190,000- £210,000

A particularly spacious traditional property situated in this quiet and highly regarded residential road in need of considerable modernisation but retaining many original features and offering tremendous potential to the discerning purchaser. Having mostly gas central heating and some double glazing, the accommodation includes Vestibule, Impressive Reception Hall with Minton tiled floor, Downstairs W.C., Cellar, Lounge with solid fuel stove and large Veranda off, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Side Veranda with Outhouses, Three Bedrooms to the first floor and Bathroom, Three Further Bedrooms to the Second Floor, Impressive Rear Garden, Fore Garden with parking. Energy Rating F.

LOT 7 20 Orchard Grove, Walsall

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



This traditionally styled semi-detached residence is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac within a short distance of Aldridge village centre, enjoying the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing the property has been extended at ground and second floor levels and now offers spacious living accommodation which would make an ideal purchase for a young family or investor. The accommodation comprises:- Open Plan Lounge Area, Utility, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Downstairs Shower Room/Guest W.C., Games Room/Bedroom Four, Three Bedrooms, Attic Room with En-Suite Shower Room, Fore and Rear Gardens. Energy Rating D.

GUIDE PRICE £150,000- £170,000

LOT 8 92 Kenyon Forge, Birmingham

Viewing: 18th & 25th January 11.00am



GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£70,000

Top floor one bedroom apartment located in a new development situated in the Jewellery Quarter. Walking distance to St Paul's Square, Snow Hill Station and tram stop. Comprises hallway, open plan kitchen / lounge / dining area, bedroom and bathroom. Early viewing is recommended on this courtyard facing apartment.

LOT 9 36 Circuit Close, Willenhall

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



GUIDE PRICE £20,000-£25,000

Purpose built first floor studio flat set in a popular residential development being offered for sale as an investment. Currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy at £250.00 PCM. Energy Rating D.

LOT 10 33 Daw End, Rushall

Viewing: 21st & 28th January 12.30pm



Delightfully situated Victorian end terraced property in need of some improvement and modernisation making an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. Located between Rushall and Aldridge the property comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Loft Room & Enclosed Rear Garden. Energy Rating F.

GUIDE PRICE £65,000-£75,000

LOT 11 68 Stockwell Road, Handsworth

Viewing: 21st & 28th January 11.30am



GUIDE PRICE £50,000 PLUS

In need of total modernisation and improvement, this Victorian mid terraced property is situated in a sought after residential area and would make an ideal purchase for a builder or investor, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens. Energy Rating E.

I & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



FOR SALE STAMP DUTY PAID COPPICE OAK, WILLENHALL Five/Six Bedroom Executive Detached. Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Study (Bedroom 6) Five Bedrooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, C/Heating D/Glazing, Double Garage, Driveway And Generous Garden. Private Gated Access. £334,995	FOR SALE VIEWING ESSENTIAL WOOD LANE CLOSE, SHORT HEATH Three Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Detached Garage. £249,995	FOR SALE CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Extended Four Bed Detached Property Set On A Large Plot, Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor WC, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Garage, Majority D/Glazing, C/Heating, Vehicle Access To Rear. £239,995	FOR SALE REDUCED MILL LANE, WILLENHALL Spacious Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Hallway, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Guest Cloakroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating & Large Driveway £227,950	FOR SALE REDUCED GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL Unique Substantial Detached Property, Two Large Reception Rooms, Good Sized Conservatory Leading To Bespoke Luxury Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Luxury Family Bathroom, Three Double Bedrooms, DG & GCH, Driveway, Carport, Superb Landscaped Rear Garden. £185,000	FOR SALE CEDAR PARK RD, NEW INVENTION Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating Garage/Workshop, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Driveway. £149,995	FOR SALE REDUCED ADA WRIGHTON CLOSE, WILLENHALL Immaculate Three Bed Link Detached, Hall, Large Through Lounge/Diner, W/C, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Shower Room, Garage For Storage Only, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Driveway. £147,995	FOR SALE REDUCED JOHN RILEY DRIVE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Detached Property, Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage And Gardens. The Property Also Benefits From C/Heating And D/Glazing. £144,995
FOR SALE LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION Two/Three Bed Much Improved Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Groundfloor WC, Groundfloor Bed Three/ Study, Two Double Bedrooms Upstairs & Stylish Refitted Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Crepeprint Driveway. £139,995	FOR SALE WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage. £134,995	FOR SALE PEACH ROAD, WILLENHALL Immaculate Two Bed Semi, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Family Bathroom, Integral Garage, UPVC Double Glazing, Central Heating, Front And Rear. Garden Must View! £132,000	FOR SALE BALMORAL DR, NEW INVENTION Spacious Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner With Patio Doors Into Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Three Generous Bedrooms, Additional Loft Room, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Crete Print Driveway, Popular Location. NO CHAIN £129,995	FOR SALE NO CHAIN OAK ROAD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner/Sitting Room, Modern Bathroom, Part Double Glazing, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking. Sought After Location. NO CHAIN £129,995	FOR SALE SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED DURHAM AVENUE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen-Diner/Sitting Room, Modern Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking. Sought After Location. £129,950	FOR SALE REDUCED RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Semi, Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Breakfast Bar, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Sought After Location. £124,995	FOR SALE CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed End Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W/C, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking. £124,995
FOR SALE STUBBINGTON CL, PORTOBELLO Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Sunroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway. £124,995	FOR SALE STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Double Length Driveway, Large Rear Garden, Popular Location. £119,995	FOR SALE LICHFIELD RD, WEDNESFIELD Spacious Three Bed Mid-Town House Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen Diner/Sitting Room, Conservatory, Large Bathroom And Three Good Sized Bedrooms, C/Heating, UPVC D/Glazing £112,995	FOR SALE ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON Extended Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining/Utility Area, Wet Room, C/Heating, Majority D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal Investment Or First Time Buy! £112,500	FOR SALE REDUCED CHATSWORTH CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Detached Garage, Driveway, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £109,995	FOR SALE HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W/C, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden. £109,995	FOR SALE CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented End Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Spacious Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking. Cul-De-Sac Location, Ideal First Time Buy! £99,995	FOR SALE ROCHESTER CROFT, REEDSWOOD Well Presented Modern Two Bed Mid Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Shower Room, Also Benefiting From D/Glazing And C/Heating, Rear Garden, Ideal First Time Buy! £99,995
FOR SALE BAYNTON ROAD, NEW INVENTION Three Bed Semi Comprising Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Part D/Glazing, Part C/Heating, Rear Garden, Integral Garage And Off Road Parking. Requires Improvements, Great First Time Buy Or Investment! No Chain! £95,000	FOR SALE KENNEDY CRESCENT, DARLASTON Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, First Floor W/C, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking. £94,500 ONO	FOR SALE STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom End Town House Having Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Two Double Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden, Garage In A Separate Block. £92,500	FOR SALE SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment In This Popular Location, Lounge/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking, Must View! £89,995	FOR SALE WOOD STREET, WEDNESBURY Well Presented Two Bed End Town House, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing And C/Heating, Fantastic Buy To Let Or First Time Buy! £89,995	FOR SALE BROADWATERS RD, DARLASTON Three Bed End Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With W/C, Three Bedrooms, UPVC D/Glazing Throughout, Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles, Large Rear Garden With Workshop, Ideal Investment Or FTB. £87,995	FOR SALE NO CHAIN LIME AVENUE, BENTLEY Three Bed End Town House Having Entrance Porch, Spacious Hallway, Ground Floor W/C, Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Family Bathroom, Warm Air Heating, UPVC Single Glazed Windows & Front & Rear Gardens. NO CHAIN. £87,995	FOR SALE REDUCED KING EDWARD STREET, DARLASTON Well Presented Two Bed Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, First Floor W/C, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Private Rear Garden. £86,000
FOR SALE WESTERN AVENUE, BENTLEY Spacious Three Bed Mid-Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Ground Floor WC, Three Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Front And Rear Gardens, Ideal First Time Buy Or Buy To Let! £84,995	FOR SALE STAFFORD ROAD, DARLASTON New Build Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Reception Area, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Ideal First Time Buy, Two Available. Offers In Excess Of £80,000 £80,000 O.J.E.O	FOR SALE REMINGTON ROAD, BEECHDALE Spacious Three Bed Mid-Town House, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Separate WC, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden Having Vehicle Access. Ideal Buy To Let Or First Time Buy! £79,950 ONO	FOR SALE RYDAL CLOSE, WEDNESFIELD Well Presented One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Hallway/Utility, Dining Area, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Modern Fitted Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden. £69,995	TO LET WOLVERHAMPTON ST, WILLENHALL One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat Comprises Of Lounge Diner, Double Bedroom, Study/Store Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating And Off Road Parking To The Rear. £350 PCM	TO LET HARPER ST, WILLENHALL Modern Four Bed Three Storey Mid Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Ground Floor W/C, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden. £575 PCM	TO LET HAWKSWELL DRIVE, HADLEY HEATH *ADAPTED FOR DISABLED LIVING* Three Bed Semi, Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bedroom With Wet Room, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Private Rear Garden £550 PCM	TO LET CHURCH ROAD, SHORT HEATH Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen Diner/Sitting Room, Utility, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Detached Garage, Double Length Driveway And Large Rear Garden. Sought After Location. £550 PCM
TO LET STUBBINGTON CLOSE, PORTOBELLO Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Sunroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway. £520 PCM	TO LET SLATER STREET, WILLENHALL Recently Refurbished Mid Terraced Property Having Good Sized Lounge, Modern Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Three Generous Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating And Off Road Parking. £500 PCM	TO LET ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining/Utility Area, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Wet Room, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking £500 PCM	TO LET YALE ROAD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Two Bedroom First Floor Flat Comprising Of Secured Communal Entrance, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Appliances, Fitted Bathroom, C/Heating And D/Glazing, Great Transport Links. £500 PCM	TO LET TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Two Bed Mid-Terraced Property Comprising Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing And Enclosed Rear Garden. £475 PCM	TO LET BLOXWICH RD SOUTH, WILLENHALL Well Presented Two Bed Terrace Comprising Of Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Area, Ground Floor W/C, First Floor Family Bathroom, C/Heating, Majority D/Glazing And Private Rear Garden. £450 PCM	TO LET TENNYNSON RD, SHORT HEATH Well Presented Two Bed Second Floor Flat Having Communal Entrance, Entrance Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom And Walk In Storage Area. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating & Off Road Parking £425 PCM	TO LET WOLVERHAMPTON RD, WALSALL This Well Presented Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Shower, Gas Central Heating And Double Glazing, Close To Good Transport Links, The Manor Hospital & Walsall Town. £395 PCM

Willenhall 01902 606595

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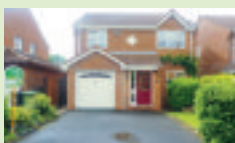
**7 Queens Parade
Bloxwich
Walsall
WS3 2EX
01922 711444**



**Bloxwich
Lightfield Road**
● Extended Four/Five Bed Semi-Detached
● Three Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Attic Bedroom●Integral Garage
● Off Road Parking
£240,000



**Bloxwich
Field road**
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Fully Re-Furbed●Two Reception Rooms
● Re-Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory
● Utility Room●W.C●Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden●Garages & Workshop
In the Region of £199,000



**Bloxwich
Lytham Grove**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kitchen
● Re-Fitted Kitchen●W.C●En-Suite
● Solid Timber Flooring●Family Bathroom
● Conservatory●Integral Garage
£188,000



**Eslington
Albany Grove**
● Four Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Extended Kitchen●Conservatory
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Carport & Garage●Driveway
In the Region of £180,000



**Bloxwich
Selsdon Road**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Garage & Off Road Parking
In the Region of £175,950



**Willenhall
Crab Lane**
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached
● Through Lounge/Diner●Kitchen
● Ground Floor Shower Room
● First Floor Shower Room●Utility Room
● Garage & Off Road Parking●Gardens
Offers in excess of £175,000



**Willenhall
Longwood Rise**
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
● Family Bathroom●Gardens
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Driveway & Off Road Parking●Garage
£159,950



**Walsall
Leamore Lane**
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Kitchen/Diner●Study●Cloakroom W.C.
● First Floor Lounge●Family Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room●Gardens
● Detached Garage
In the Region of £145,000



**Bloxwich
Harrison Street**
● Victorian Three Bedroom End-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kitchen
● Utility●Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
● Guest W.C●Front & Rear Gardens
● Cellar●Double Glazing & Gas Central
● Off Road Parking
In the Region of £139,950



**Bloxwich
Well Lane**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge/Diner
● Family Bathroom with separate W.C.
● Integral Garage●Front & Rear Gardens
● Large Driveway
Offers in excess of £130,000



**Bloxwich
Newhome Way**
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Fitted Kitchen●Lounge
● Cloakroom W.C●Family Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room●Gardens
● Detached Garage & Off Road Parking
Offers in excess of £130,000



**Walsall
Smiths Flour Mill**
● Two Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge●Integrated Kitchen
● Electric Heating & Double Glazing
● Allocated Parking
● Family Bathroom
Offers in excess of £125,000



**Willenhall
Balmoral Drive**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Through Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Garage & Off Road Parking●Gardens
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
In the Region of £125,000



**Bloxwich
Granttown Grove**
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Kitchen●Lounge●Fitted Bathroom
● Rear Enclosed Garden
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
In the Region of £116,950



**Bloxwich
Raymond Close**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge/Diner●Kitchen
● Shower Room●Study●Fitted Kitchen
● Integral Garage●Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking
Offers in excess of £115,000



**Bloxwich
Beatrice Street**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Front Lounge●Rear Sitting Room
● Breakfast Room●Study●Fitted Kitchen
● Bathroom●D.Glazed/Central Heating
● Gardens with Off Road Parking
In the Region of £110,000



**Willenhall
Gurnard Close**
● Two Bedroom End-Terrace
● Lounge
● Kitchen/Diner
● Two Bedrooms
● Family Bathroom
£110,000



**Bloxwich
Beeches Road**
● Two Bedroom Semi Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
● Utility●Family Bathroom
● Large Rear Garden●Off Road Parking
● Corner Plot with room to extend
Offers in excess of £105,000



**Bloxwich
Henley Close**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Extended Kitchen
● Dining Room●Family Bathroom
● Gardens●Garage & Driveway
● Part Gas Central & Double Glazing
Offers in excess of £105,000



**Walsall
Parsons Way**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Bespoke Fitted Kitchen
● Utility Room●Family Bathroom
● Gardens●D.Glazing & Central Heating
● Large Storage Unit to Rear
In the Region of £99,950



**Walsall
Bloxwich Lane**
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
● Rear Extension●Bathroom●Garden
● Block Paved Driveway to the Front
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
In the Region of £95,000



**Bloxwich
Bell Tower Close**
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Open Plan Lounge/Diner●Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom●Communal Grounds
● Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating
● Allocated Parking●NO CHAIN
In the Region of £87,500



**New Invention
Squires Grove**
● Two Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Bathroom●En-Suite
● Double Glazing●Electric Heating
● Communal grounds
In the Region of £85,000



**Walsall
Miner Street**
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
● Farm House Style Kitchen●Bathroom
● Rear Courtyard●Enclosed Rear Garden
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
In the Region of £85,000



**Bloxwich
Bagnall Street**
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Guest W.C.
● Bathroom●Conservatory
● Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway
In the Region of £85,000



**Bloxwich
Boshore Road**
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge●Dining Room
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Double Glazed●Central Heating
● Rear Garden●Off Road Parking
In the Region of £84,950



**Bloxwich
Glastonbury Crescent**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen
● Rear Lobby with Downstairs W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Separate W.C.
● Gardens●Detached Garage to Rear
In the Region of £82,500



**Bloxwich
Booth Street**
● Extended Three Bedroom Semi
● Lounge & Dining Room●Kitchen
● Garage●Off Road Parking
● Rear Garden●Gas Central Heating
● Part Double Glazing●NO CHAIN
In the Region of £80,000



**Willenhall
Tennyson Road**
● IDEAL INVESTMENT
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Lobby/Storage
● Bathroom
● Separate W.C.
● Partial Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating
● Gardens
In the the Region of £76,000



**Willenhall
Hilton Way**
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
● Shower Room●Separate W.C.
● Front & Rear Gardens●Gas Central Heating
£75,000



**Willenhall
Argyll Court, Essington Road**
● One Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Secure Communal Entrance
● Communal Grounds
● Secure Allocated Parking
In the Region of £66,950

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**WEDNESFIELD
ROSALIND GROVE**

- Pleasant semi detached property in much sought after location
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
- Fitted dining kitchen
- First floor bathroom
- Potential to improve or extend
- Garage & off road parking
- Must be viewed

£134,995 OFFERS



**COPPICE FARM
LOCALLISH GROVE**

- Modern style detached family residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Breakfast kitchen and downstairs wc
- Garage and off road parking
- Generous rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Internal viewing recommended

NOW £193,500



**ESSINGTON
ROWAN DRIVE**

- Superb extended modern style detached residence
- Gas central heating
- Four bedrooms, three with fitted wardrobes
- En-suite shower room
- Two reception rooms
- Well equipped dining kitchen in oven and hob
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Substantial 250 x 140 garage/vehicle storage
- Enclosed low maintenance garden with hot pool & pergola

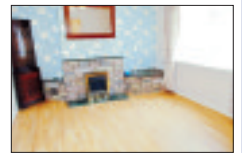
NOW £299,950



**ASHMORE PARK, WEDNESFIELD
SANDY CRESCENT**

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi detached property
- Popular Ashmore Park location
- Three bedrooms
- 19ft fitted dining kitchen
- UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
- First floor shower room
- Off road parking
- Ideal family home, no chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,995



**SHORT HEATH
HUNTS LANE**

- Superbly presented detached property
- Three good size bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Well appointed dining kitchen
- Luxury bathroom
- Superb en-suite shower room
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway, rear garden

£169,950 MUST BE VIEWED

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Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
01902 686868



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**SNEYD PARK
CEDAR PARK ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom with white suite
- Garage/terrace
- Attractive enclosed rear garden

£139,950



**COPPICE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE**

- Extended end town house & hub
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority double glazed windows
- Fitted dining kitchen with oven, hob & driveway
- Utility room and downstairs wc
- Garage & concrete print driveway
- No chain

WAS £140,000, NOW £134,000



**NEW INVENTION
BALMORAL DRIVE**

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazing
- Large through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen with oven, hob & washing machine
- Spacious bathroom with shower over the bath
- Pleasant rear garden with timber decked patio
- Free garden and off road parking

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £125,000



**COPPICE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached style property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Fitted dining kitchen with integrated oven, hob & pantry
- Refitted bathroom with shower over the bath
- Enclosed rear garden with paved patio
- Off road parking

£114,950



**BENTLEY, WALSALL
CUNNINGHAM ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 19ft through lounge
- Extended sun room
- Breakfast kitchen/utility room
- Potential to extend and improve
- Garage & off road parking
- No upward chain

£110,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



**COPPICE FARM
HIGHMOOR CLOSE**

- Modern style semi detached on generous corner plot
- Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Lounge & breakfast kitchen
- Sun room & conservatory
- Garage/terrace
- Attractive enclosed rear garden

£118,000, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



**WEDNESFIELD, ASHMORE PARK
GRIFFITHS DRIVE**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Popular Ashmore Park development
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
- First floor shower room
- Delightful rear garden with raised patio
- Detached off road parking
- No upward chain

WAS £115,000 NOW £109,995



**WEDNESFIELD
HAWTHORNE ROAD**

- Modern style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- First double glazing
- Ideal FIRST TIME BUY!
- Potential to improve and/or re-model
- Pretty enclosed rear garden & off road parking
- Free garden and off road parking

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £104,995



**WEDNESFIELD
BRINDLEY AVENUE**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Popular Ashmore Park location
- Two bedrooms
- Double glazing & gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- 19ft through lounge/diner
- Black paved off road parking
- Ideal first time buy or buy to let
- No upward chain

WAS £99,995, NOW £97,500



**NEW INVENTION
BEACON ROAD**

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Refitted dining kitchen in oven and hob
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- First and rear gardens
- Spacious 14ft lounge
- Kitchen and shower room
- Popular location
- Viewing recommended

NOW £99,995



**DARLASTON
MEMORY LANE**

- Well presented modern style semi detached property
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- Two bedrooms
- Storage heating
- Double glazing
- 23ft garage, garden to the rear

£99,950



**BENTLEY
ATLEE ROAD**

- Semi detached property requiring modernisation
- Two good size bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazed windows
- Garden
- Driveway to the fore

£91,000



**WILLENHALL
ERNEST CLARKE CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed mid terrace property
- Spacious lounge with dining area
- Refitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with separate toilet
- Two double bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed windows
- Refitted rear garden with rear

£84,950 NO CHAIN



**DARLASTON
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET**

- Spacious first floor flat in convenient location
- Gas warm air central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 14ft lounge
- Kitchen and shower room
- Communal entrance with security intercom

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £53,000, NO CHAIN



SHORT HEATH POOLES LANE

- Much improved detached bungalow
- Lounge
- Superb breakfast kitchen, Utility
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious bathroom
- Double glazing, gas central heating
- Garage & driveway
- Established rear gardens

£195,000



WILLENHALL BILSTON ROAD

- Recently appointed detached property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Inverse alarm system (alarmhouse connected)
- Lounge, dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Four bedrooms, three with fitted wardrobes
- Potential to extend to rear (subject to planning)
- Off road parking

£175,000



BENTLEY ATILEE ROAD

- Extended semi detached property
- Three 1st floor bedrooms
- Ground floor extended bedroom four
- 19th through lounge
- Downstairs cloakroom with wc
- Fitted kitchen and adjacent lobby
- Pleasant rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Part UPVC double glazed windows

£125,000



WOLVERHAMPTON ACKLETON GARDENS

- Much improved semi detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Spacious lounge
- Refitted bathroom
- Off road parking
- Gardens
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

WAS £114,950, NOW £109,950 NO CHAIN



COPPICE FARM KINGFISHER GROVE

- Recently appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms, en-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining room
- Spacious UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen and utility room
- Excellent refitted bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed windows

WAS £184,500, NOW £179,950



WILLENHALL VICTORIA COURT, GRANVILLE STREET

- Superbly appointed ground floor corner apartment
- Two bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobes
- Open plan lounge/dining kitchen
- Spacious bathroom
- Allocated parking space with security gates
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- No chain

£87,500



WILLENHALL REGENT STREET

- Period end terraced property
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and breakfast area/utility
- Two bedrooms, one with attic area
- Bathroom
- Rear garden
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating

£87,000 NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL GOUGH STREET

- Well maintained & pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Refitted dining kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway with ample parking
- Large side/rear garden
- No chain

£85,000



WOLVERHAMPTON WILLENHALL ROAD

- Mid terraced property
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen
- Three good size bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Gardens to front and rear
- No chain

£77,500

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- Three bedrooms
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- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- 28ft side garage
- Established garden

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £160,000



SUMMER HAYES CASTLE DRIVE

- Four bedroom detached property
- 3 first floor bedrooms, downstairs bathroom 4
- Breakfast kitchen & utility room/av
- Refitted bath & 3rd bathroom with No chain
- Shower
- 23ft tandem length garage
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £140,000



OFF OVERDALE DRIVE, WALSALL CONDOWER CLOSE

- Recently appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- No chain
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen and utility room/study
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- No chain

WAS £139,950, NOW £137,500



WILLENHALL BEECH ROAD

- Traditional style semi-detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Majority gas central heating
- NO CHAIN
- UPVC double glazing
- Large established rear garden
- Garage and off road parking
- NO CHAIN

WAS £135,000, NOW £129,995



WEDNESFIELD SPRINGHILL ROAD

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Beautiful rear garden & decked caniside patio
- Double glazed windows
- No upward chain
- Gas central heating
- Three bedrooms
- Garage & off road parking
- No upward chain

WAS £129,995 NOW £124,995



WILLENHALL BARMOUTH CLOSE

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Excellent potential to improve

WAS £120,000, NOW £118,500



BENTLEY WREXHAM AVENUE

- Extended traditional style semi detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Double glazed windows
- No chain
- Gas central heating
- Garage and driveway
- Views over Bentley Leisure Pavilion

WAS £109,950, NOW £107,000



WEDNESFIELD, ASHMORE PARK KITCHEN LANE

- Beautifully presented first floor flat one bedroom
- Refitted kitchen with selected appliances
- Refitted bathroom with shower over bath
- UPVC double glazing & Gas central heating
- Additional left space for storage
- Enclosed rear garden with black gravel patio
- Off road parking

WAS £79,500 NOW £74,995



WILLENHALL LISTER STREET

- Three bedroom mid terraced property
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Two reception rooms
- Viewing highly recommended
- Fitted kitchen
- Ground floor bathroom
- Three good size bedrooms
- Pleasant garden to the rear
- NO CHAIN

WAS £94,950, NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN



WEDNESFIELD CLARE AVENUE

- Purpose built first floor flat
- Three bedrooms
- Double glazed windows & gas central heating
- Fitted kitchen with built in pantry
- Bedroom with white suite
- Potential to improve
- Ideal first time purchase or buy to let investment

WAS £62,500 NOW £59,995

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Cannock

£250,000

Much improved heavily extended well presented detached property being a corner plot position. Comprises four bedrooms, driveway with double garage and rear garden. Benefitting from central heating, double glazing.

Great Wyrley, Walsall



REDUCED



£230,000

Traditional double fronted detached dormer bungalow located on 1/3 acre with no upward chain.

Rawnsley, Cannock



REDUCED



£220,000

Four bedroom immaculately presented modern detached property being sold with no chain. Driveway with garage, front and rear gardens.

Hednesford



REDUCED

£145,000

Well presented modern linked detached property. Comprising: entrance porch, hall, refitted kitchen diner, three bedrooms and refitted shower room.

Cheslyn Hay



NEW
INSTRUCTION

£145,000

Much improved three bedroom semi detached property being sold with no upward chain. Driveway with front and rear gardens.

Heath Hayes



NEW
INSTRUCTION

£140,000

Viewing is recommended on this three bedroom well presented end town house with no upward chain. Driveway with attached garage and gardens.

Norton Canes



REDUCED

£140,000

Traditional extended double fronted detached house. Comprising: guest wc, study, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Norton Canes



NEW
INSTRUCTION

£140,000

Linked detached house with entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, driveway with garage and gardens.

Hednesford



Reduced

£95,000

Two bedroom extended semi detached house comprising entrance hall, guest WVC, lounge diner, sun room, kitchen, utility room and shower room.

Hednesford



NEW
INSTRUCTION

£94,950

Two bedroom semi detached property being sold with no upward chain. Front and rear gardens. Benefitting from central heating and double glazing.

Norton Canes



Reduced

£38,000

... 40% SHARED OWNERSHIP ... Modern two bedroom ground floor apartment with parking. Benefitting from central heating and double glazing.



An update for 2013 – the newly styled BMW Z4 features Valencia Orange paintwork

More goodies promised in new sporty BMW Z4

A NEW BMW Z4 is on the way with new styling, more equipment and a new entry-level model, the Munich-based company has confirmed.

A mid-life update sees mildly revised lines mix with a familiar set of engines and trim levels, apart from a new sDrive18i model, which uses a detuned version of the 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbocharged unit in the sDrive20i, and in SE trim it loses the 20i's leather seats.

At present the 20i, which has until now been the range's entry point,

accounts for 80 per cent of the model's sales and BMW is hoping to expand sales with a more accessible option.

High-performance Z4s start with the four-cylinder turbocharged sDrive28i, with the six-cylinder turbo-augmented sDrive35i and 35is as the standard bearers. All three are limited to 155mph, with 242bhp, 302bhp and 335bhp respectively.

SE and M Sport are maintained as the available trim options, but a new and more visually striking option has been added.

The Pure Traction Design package can be ordered on any Z4 and brings with it Valencia Orange paint, an

optional gloss black roof, leather and Alcantara sports seats with contrasting stitching and darker 'metal weave' interior trim.

Standard equipment across all models now includes DAB radio, xenon headlights, Bluetooth, USB connectivity and a multi-function steering wheel. Only the sDrive18i SE does without 'Kansas' leather upholstery as standard.

The Z4 will go on sale in March, with on-the-road prices starting at £27,610 and rising to £45,795. The Pure Traction Package will cost between £550 and £2,240 depending on which model it is added to.



New floors, offices and lighting plus a larger showroom to accommodate 10 cars at Redditch Volkswagen

Refurbished showroom to launch new Volkswagen

THE launch of the next generation Volkswagen Golf has been marked with the unveiling of Redditch Volkswagen's £360,000, cutting edge showroom refurbishment.

Redditch Volkswagen, part of Trust Group UK with sites in Wolverhampton and Stourbridge, has undergone a major facelift over the last 10 weeks.

Malcolm Toon, brand manager at Redditch Volkswagen, said: "This is a huge investment by the Trust Group,

and will make us one of around 40 dealerships in the country to offer the latest Volkswagen retail concept.

"This new facility features an extension to our car showroom from seven cars to 10 and reaffirms the Volkswagen corporate identity."

During the refurbishment the showroom was completely overhauled – new floors, lighting, offices – resulting in new customer-focused amenities.

These complement the 'digital showroom' launched last year, an innovative service which enables customers to configure their dream car on in-store

iPads featuring a dedicated Volkswagen app.

Mr Toon added: "The much anticipated arrival of the all new seventh generation Golf has created a real sense of excitement here at Redditch, and we are thrilled to be able to showcase it at the same time as our stunning new showroom. The Golf is integral to the Volkswagen brand, and we are hoping to see lots of our former and future customers visiting us over the weekend when they will be able to get their first look at it – and our refurbished showrooms."

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Superb Estate 140 SE Diesel COST NEW: £22,670 From only 6,000 miles, Choice of colours
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* SKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS in Brilliant Silver Metallic, Steel Grey and Denim Blue Metallic with spare wheel. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Discount only applies to DTP price of vehicle including metallic paint and spare wheel. Official specification cannot be added on this offer. ** 3 years or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes sooner). Terms and conditions apply. Available when purchased with Solutions. 7.9% APR Representative. Available on new retail orders subject to availability before the 31st March 2013. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18s. Excludes the Channel Islands, SKODA Finance, Freepost SKODA Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the SKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO2 emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km.

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Make resolution to help keep car in good shape

YOU may have started the New Year with good intentions to get yourself back in shape but what about your car?

If you have neglected your car over the past year, it's time to get cracking before it's too late.

So the experts at Haynes have come up with this plan for your car to prevent any problems before they arise:

1 check the tyres at least once a month

Correct tyre pressures are vital for good grip, maximum tyre life and good fuel consumption. Check tyre condition (no cuts or bulges) and tread depth too. The legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm, but stopping distances in the wet are seriously affected by anything below 3mm.

2 check the engine oil level regularly

Once the oil pressure warning light comes on, engine damage may already have occurred. Extended service intervals make it more likely that topping-up will be required between services.

3 be kind to the car's battery.

Reduce the strain on the battery, and prolong its life, by starting the engine before switching on the lights, heater blower, heated rear window etc. Follow the same procedure in reverse at the end of your journey.

4 make a few simple checks before putting the car in for its MoT.

Around 40 per cent of cars fail their MoT at the first attempt, and most are due to simple faults such as a blown light bulb, a split wiper blade or an excessively worn tyre – all items which are easy to detect and fix before the test.

How to improve driving

ROAD safety charity the IAM is offering motoring tips from Britain's top advanced driver, Peter Rodger, on how to improve your driving for the New Year:

Night driving: You must be able to stop in the distance you see to be clear. Use your lights on full beam where possible and keep windows and mirrors clean to maximise your view.

Eyesight: The NHS suggests having an eye test every two years. It is your responsibility to ensure you're fit to drive. Many eyesight problems are worsened when driving in the dark.

Weather: Heed weather warnings all year round. If the weather is really bad, consider whether you need to travel at all. If so, there are alternatives to driving.

Year-round maintenance: Clean your windows, lights, mirrors and number plates regularly. You should spend around 10 minutes every week checking your vehicle's fluid levels, tyre pressure, lights, tread depth and windscreen wipers.

Eco-driving: A planned drive is an economical drive – having a good sense of your vehicle's power and gears will save fuel.

Anticipate: Consider what the traffic around you may do, especially at traffic lights, roundabouts and junctions.

Refuel: Be sure to top up your tank, especially when embarking upon long journeys. Running out of fuel causes hundreds of motorway breakdowns every year.

Rodger said: "The New Year is a common time for people to sit back, reflect and evaluate their goals for the upcoming year."

"Why not begin by incorporating your driving behaviour into your list of resolutions for 2013?"

To help drivers stay safe this winter, the IAM has launched a new website – drivingadvice.org.uk – with traffic updates, weather forecasts and tips on how to drive safely in winter.

Tips cover rain, snow, ice, fog and wind – everything you can expect in a typically unpredictable British winter. Check it out before you travel.

5 save money by driving more economically

Fierce acceleration and hard braking are bad for fuel consumption, and also increase wear and tear on suspension, brakes and tyres. High speeds are bad for fuel consumption, too – cruising at 60mph instead of 70 will improve consumption by nearly 10 per cent, whereas cruising at 80 instead of 70 will worsen it by up to 25 per cent.

Finally, a well-maintained vehicle is more economical, more reliable and holds its resale value better.

Haynes manuals have been helping motorists to repair and maintain their vehicles for more than 50 years and the company has now launched its top 100 car and motorcycle manuals online at www.haynes.co.uk so you can now access service and repair information on your PC, laptop or smart phone.

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BT62LDD	Suzuki Splash SZ2 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Door Hatchback		VN590YH	Nissan Note N-Tec 1.4 Petrol Manual MPV	
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Model shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Alto range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 54.3 (5.2), extra urban from 62.8 (4.5) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 54.3 (5.2) to 65.7 (4.3). Official CO2 emissions from 118g/km to 99g/km.

*VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ2 available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ2) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2013 and 31st March 2013 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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Newcomers to running should remember to warm up before each session and warm down afterwards. It is helpful to stretch your leg muscles prior to running and brisk walking or jogging on the spot for five to 10 minutes is an effective way of preparing the body.

If you have decided to have a go, why not encourage others by letting them know how you are getting on? Call Joy Brown at Action Heart on 01384 292233 or email running@action-heart.com

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Thirds get off to a good start

Bloxwich 5 Erdington 2
BLOXWICH ladies hockey thirds got 2013 under way with a good win.

Positive play by Nic Nullis and Julie Kempson resulted in two goals for the latter and Abbie Lloyd then set up a score for Helen Langley.

Erdington were stronger in the second half and pulled one back from a penalty corner but Chez Alcock got Bloxwich's fourth before Langley made it 5-1.

Erdington's only consolation was a late second goal from a penalty corner.



Khalsa's hat-trick hero Sam Pearson celebrates his treble

Pearson is hat-trick hero

Sporting Khalsa 4 Bilston Town 2

SPORTING KHALSA booked their place in the last four of the Staffordshire FA Vase with striker Sam Pearson their hat-trick hero.

One of his strikes was a spectacular overhead kick fit to win any match.

The opening exchanges saw both teams creating chances, with Jamal Pinnock opening up the Khalsa defence with a run and cross that was cleared for a corner, while good work by Khalsa on the right saw a cross to the edge of the box that resulted in a shot easily taken by Ben Astley.

However, another good Khalsa cross into the box saw a scramble and

Bilston's attempted headed clearance beat Astley to give Khalsa the lead.

The home side took the initiative and started to dominate, restricting Bilston to isolated attacks.

A misplaced pass in midfield put Khalsa in possession. Pearson acrobatically finished the move with an overhead kick into the top corner to double the advantage. He was on target again when he met a right-wing cross.

Bilston were fighting a rearguard action, but Pearson tied-up his hat-trick when he headed home from a

cross that the Bilston defence failed to clear.

Bilston came out for the second half with more determination and it was Khalsa's turn to be on the back foot.

Some excellent build-up play put Lee Onions in to pull a goal back.

A few minutes later more pressure in the box saw Onions again on target.

Bilston continued to apply the pressure but were unable to supply the finishing touch. At the other end, Astley was forced into an exceptional save and a fierce shot hit the bar.

Four-game run ended after early setbacks

Hereford 10 Walsall 0

WALSALL fell behind in the first minute of this Midlands One West rugby clash and never quite came back.

Hereford gathered the ball from kick-off, retained possession while making 70 metres, and moved the ball wide for winger Charlie Loughman to dive over.

Walsall were in control as Alex Hawthorne, Daniel Simpson and Steve Halbert all carried ball effectively but damp and muddy conditions made it difficult.

After 15 minutes Walsall lost the ball. A quick counter-attack and kick ahead saw Loughman score.

Walsall had prolonged pressure near the line but strong scrums and line-out drives were repelled.

A 40-metre break by Chris Mould seemed certain to see a try but the support player failed to hang on to the final pass. Walsall worked hard to get possession and use it well but didn't always choose correctly in running the ball.

Birth

The kicking of Matt Wood, missing for the birth of a second daughter, might have been invaluable.

In the second half there were defence-splitting runs by Harvey Wootton, Roger Weston and Paul Naylor.

With three minutes left Weston seized on a dropped pass and kicked deep into the opposition 22 but mud stopped the ball and attack.

An easy penalty kick saw them scrummage in a bid for a try but slippery conditions were too much. Defeat ended a four-game winning run. They have a rest this week before Northwich visit Delves Road in a fortnight.

The United side led 17-15 in the last minute at Hereford but conceded a penalty.

The successful kick saw the hosts snatch victory by a point. Walsall got a penalty try and flankers Andy Fitzgerald and Jamie Hickman scored tries. Jack Crowhurst kicked a conversion. This week they face a tough game at Bromsgrove.

Walsall thirds won 15-10 at Burntwood. Phil Stanley scored a try and Simon Bickley crossed in the final minute for the winner.

Kevin Pitt converted that try and also landed a penalty.

Football results

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Round Two: Bush 4 Trident 3.

Glen Skett Cup Round 1: Shire Oak Saints Warriors 0 Shire Oak 3 (aet).

Preston NE 1 Walsall 3

WALSALL'S revival continues both on and off the field of play.

As the Saddlers' League One campaign gathers pace, the return of chairman Jeff Bonser to their games can signal a happy reunion, writes Nick Mashiter.

He had made a low-key comeback to watch the Saddlers' 4-2 win at MK Dons on Boxing Day.

And he was again in attendance at Preston on Sunday for a 3-1 victory so comfortable it was almost embarrassing.

It has been almost three years since he stopped watching, but Bonser has always been there in the background.

He is at the club during the week but his self-imposed Saturday exile has always been the talking point.

Fans' opinions have been skewed because of it, believing he has ditched his responsibilities – something that is unfair.

Fractured

Yes, other issues remain. His continued public silence and the long, overstated issue of the rent will hang there while he remains in charge. But this could be a precursor to seeing Bonser back at the Banks's for a game. However, one step at a time.

His return serves to bond a club that is threatening to last the course on the field.

Two years ago they were fractured, but the chairman's backing of Dean Smith must be praised as the manager builds a team that could be capable of ending their struggles.

Bonser's comeback is mirrored by the side, as their super-charged resuscitation after results had started to flatline just before Christmas lifted them to 12th.

In the space of a month they have gone from three points above the drop zone to five points adrift of the play-offs.

Had their form not deserted them for 16 games, talk of an unlikely promotion shot would have been justified. As it is, the manager and squad will – publicly at least –



Walsall's Jamie Paterson fires in a shot during the Saddlers' victory

refuse to entertain the thoughts of a challenge in a topsy-turvy league.

Five wins from six games – and two defeats in their last 11 – has propelled the Saddlers away from danger. A victory on Saturday, when in-form Bournemouth visit, would make it hard not to consider what seemed impossible just four weeks ago.

Reaching 50 points is the first target, though, and Sunday's victory moved them closer to that. New goalkeeper – Walsall's fourth of the season – Ian McLoughlin was handed an instant debut after signing from MK Dons, with David Grof relegated to the substitutes.

Andy Taylor made the bench after a groin injury, with Mal Benning retaining his place. James Baxendale made his first start since November after Craig Westcarr's departure.

Preston had failed to win in the league at

Deepdale since September. And the Saddlers began well with Thorsten Stuckmann turning Jamie Paterson's snapshot wide before he tipped Andy Butler's header onto the bar.

The hosts were nervous, tentative on the ball and slow without it, but there was no suggestion Walsall had it all their own way.

Nicky Wroe latched onto Joe Garner's header but sliced wide under pressure from Benning.

The Saddlers escaped a minute later when Garner tumbled under Butler's tug just two yards out, but referee Carl Boyeson was unmoved. It infuriated Preston and their mood darkened two minutes later when Walsall took the lead.

Will Grigg burst down the left and into the area to cross for Brandy to smash in from five yards.

The diligent Saddlers had edged the opening but, stung, Preston reacted and



What a turn-up – Febian Brandy marks his goal

McLoughlin palmed Wroe's drive wide. Walsall continued to find joy on the Preston right and Baxendale should have done better than to lob into the side-netting when put through.

But the visitors didn't have to wait long for a second, which came seven minutes before the break. Paterson's free-kick was only half-cleared and the excellent Adam Chambers crossed for Paul Downing to glance the ball into the corner.

The Saddlers continued their dominance after the break when Stuckmann smothered Grigg's shot, but he had no answer to Walsall's third on 55 minutes.

Jack King's error allowed Grigg to move into the area and pull back for Baxendale to fire a rocket into the top corner from 18 yards. It was game over. Not even Bailey Wright's injury-time consolation could damage the Saddlers. Welcome back, Jeff!

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Another win – and
Bonser is back
Page 51



Classic Khalsa
Pearson treble lifts
side to derby win
Page 51



Grof has to prove himself – manager

WALSALL boss Dean Smith insists goalkeeper David Grof still has a future at the club – and expects him to fight for his place.

The Hungarian has fallen behind a string of loan keepers after starting the season as the No. 1.

Karl Darlow, Aaron McCarey and now MK Dons loanee Ian McLoughlin have been brought in after Grof failed to convince Smith.

But the manager said Grof, who has made 14 appearances this term but none since November, is still in his plans.

Smith said: "Yes, he's still a young goalkeeper. He had a tough time when he came back after Karl's initial loan. Then we brought Aaron in and he did really well for us."

"David has got to compete with other goalkeepers to prove that he is good enough to get that starting position."

"I've seen his fight. He came and asked me if he could play in the reserves against Walsall Wood last week. It was going to be an under-21 game."

McLoughlin was drafted in from League One rivals Dons on Sunday and made his debut in the impressive 3-1 win at Preston – his first game since the Dons' 2-0 League Cup defeat to Sunderland last September.

The Ireland under-21 international is on loan for a month but it could be extended.

Smith right says skipper

SKIPPER Andy Butler has declared that Walsall's new-found form proves boss Dean Smith was right all along.

The Saddlers have won five of their last six games and Butler reckons it is a vindication of Smith's philosophy.

They moved 15 points clear of the League One drop zone after Sunday's 3-1 win at Preston.

He said: "Now it's justified what he's been doing."

"It's pleasing for the gaffer. I know he was under a bit of pressure from the fans, but as a group he had our full backing and we never once doubted what we were trying to do. We knew sooner or later the results would turn around."

"Looking at the stats this time last season we had about 22 points so it's a big turnaround. It's good for us."

Wood hope for big crowd as Vase trail goes on

by Tim Nash

WALSALL WOOD are hoping for a bumper crowd as they prepare for the biggest game in their history on Saturday.

Wood, who play in the Midland Combination Premier Division, host west London outfit Hanworth Villa in the FA Vase fourth round.

Mark Swann's side have only previously been as far as the first round but are now aiming to reach the fifth round after beating Alvechurch, Eccleshall, Shirebrook – after a replay – and Wigan Robin Park.

Their Vase exploits this season have earned them £4,800 in prize money – and a further £2,000 is on offer for the winners

this weekend, which would leave them three games from Wembley. The club's commercial director Nigel Watkins has been on a mission to drum up support in the area.

"We average 80-100 for home games but we're trying to raise awareness through Twitter and Facebook and putting up notices in shop windows and we'd love to see 350 people there," said Watkins.

"The early indications are that Hanworth are bringing three or four coachloads up, so we're hoping for a good attendance."

Wood are hoping fitness will be the key as

they prepare for the big day. Watkins believes Swann's side will be well prepared for the tie against the Combined Counties League Premier Division side, who play one league higher. "We train Tuesdays and Thursdays but it's done to a professional standard and, with an average age of 23, the one thing that stands out for us is their fitness," said Watkins.

"In pre-season, Mark had them running up the Clent Hills, and when we played Wigan Robin Park in the last round, which we won 4-1, one of their officials said they had never come across a team as fit as us."

Former Willenhall midfielder Swann was

part of Chasetown's squad who reached the FA Cup third round in 2007-08 and is eyeing more cup glory after saving the club from the drop last season with a spectacular return of 10 wins from 12 games.

Vase commitments and postponements mean Wood haven't played a league game since December 1. They lie fourth and have a whopping nine games in hand on leaders Bromsgrove Sporting.

Wood warmed up with a 4-3 Les James Trophy win at Blackwood, fighting back from three goals down with strikes by Danny Evans, Ahmet Bilgimer and Drew Aiton (2).

Aldridge move to second after win

Aldridge 12 Essington 7

THIS hard-fought victory by Aldridge leapfrogged them over league rivals Essington into second spot in the Midlands Five West (North) table.

It was close all the way through, with Essington making the sharper start trying to open up the game via their back line.

The Aldridge midfield defence did a worthy job in containing them through most of the afternoon but could not do anything to prevent Essington scoring.

It came on the half-hour from a maul originating off the back of an attacking five-metre line-out. The ball was moved swiftly along the line to provide winger Nick Prior with space to cross unopposed between the posts. Scrum-half Nick Britton converted.

This sounded the alarm bells for the home side and they began to raise their game. Aided by some astute line-kicking from No. 10 Kenny Carter, they managed to shift play to the visitors' end of the field. The pressure paid off, scrum-half Chris Jones slotting a penalty before the break.

Aldridge had much the better of the second half.

The forwards gained the ascendancy and some determined running from the backs meant a lot of time was spent in visitors' territory. The pressure told and they began to transgress.

A further three penalties from Jones eased Aldridge into the lead but despite pressure, they failed to produce a try.

They were then forced to cling on grimly to secure the victory.

SADDLERS HELP AS GETHIN PREPARES

MARTIN GETHIN reckons he's ready for the long haul in his British title shot after hitting the training beat with the players at Walsall Football Club.

The Saddlers welcomed the hometown hero to their Essington base ahead of his big fight at Walsall Town Hall tomorrow night, live on BoxNation.

Gethin was also invited to Walsall's televised 2-0 win against Portsmouth at the Banks's Stadium two weeks ago and was introduced to supporters at half-time.

The 29-year-old will jostle with Ben Murphy for the vacant British lightweight title on fight night, along with the also up-for-grabs Commonwealth belt.

The former two-time English champion was made No. 1 contender to the British crown in October, after winning the IBF International title and a world ranking.

Murphy lost a British title shot in 2011 at light-welter but took the fight at two days' notice, battling bravely before he was stopped in the 11th round by Ashley Theophane.

Gethin said: "Ben is a tough man, Theophane didn't get the chance to move until the later rounds and I know he's going to try and do the same to me."

"I have got to bang the jab out in his face all the way through, sting him with some shots and, hopefully, that will slow him down a bit."

"He's not going to be able to eat it all night, not after I whip a few body shots in and follow up with uppercuts, I will really be going for it."

"He doesn't stop coming forward but I can go forward and backwards and, when he's pegged back, we will see how tough he really is."

"It's going to be a good

by Craig Birch

fight, maybe it could even be fight of the year."

Cannock's Dave Egan is hoping to make the hall venue a home from home.

He made his professional debut there last May, where he outpointed Matt Seawright in front of 200 of his own supporters.

The former Chasetown semi-professional footballer is back tomorrow to face Ricky Stock.

Egan and his fans will make the short trip to the town, which he knows well, having boxed for Walsall Wood ABC as an amateur.

The 29-year-old welterweight will also see the British title contested in his 10st class between Frankie Gavin and Jason Welborn at the top of the bill.

And Egan said: "It's going to be some night. It's easily the biggest show I have been involved in. It's a massive show."

"Walsall is probably the most local town to me being from Cannock, so I just can't wait. To be on this undercard in only my fourth professional fight is brilliant."

The show is an 1,800 sell-out but will be live on BoxNation on Sky Channel 437 and Virgin Channel 546.



Ready to rumble – Walsall boxer Martin Gethin in the weights room with Walsall FC players, from left, Ben Purkiss, Andy Butler and Richard Taundry as he prepares for tomorrow night's British title fight at Walsall Town Hall

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Robert Dawson, Director

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettley, Telford, Thursday, January 17, 2013.